

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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No. 229.—VOL. 9.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1859.

PRICE 2½D.—STAMPED, 3½D.

THE RESPITE.

EUROPE is respite during the pleasure of his Majesty the Emperor of the French. Everything points to an interval of quiet just now. How long it may last is another matter, but it is a welcome pause. Let us survey the situation, hoping that all may end well, but never too confident about it.

The fêtes at Paris have their significance otherwise than as shown. They were testimonies, not to the popularity of the army, which is the most French of French things. Soldiers returning from the invasion of Belgium or any other country would have been equally welcome to the populace, and this is worth remembering. The French army is to the French people all that the whole of our institutions are to us. It embodies their individual self-importance and pride in a way which no other army does. This it is which makes it so formidable to Europe; and the Emperor takes care to preserve its prestige, and make the most of it. We are for the present apparently free from another outbreak of his ambition, but his military is constantly kept before the public, and petted in every way. Camps are formed for exercise and for spectacle, and the soldier is made the personage of the time. This is an offset to the peaceable declarations of his speeches, arguing the temporary character of that tranquillity in which we are now living.

In Italy his Majesty seems to be leaving things to themselves, in quiet confidence that they must turn in his favour. The Italians, so far, come out of their trial well—have behaved with spirit, and also with temper. The resolute feeling against the return of the Austrianised potentates of Central Italy is the most noticeable feature in Southern news. This must tell for Napoleon in due time, since, however their Governments are settled, his Government will be the most influential one. We are again hearing, of course, of the probability of his cousin being placed on a new Italian throne; and this is no unlikely result of the very complicated situation. England's influence ought to be steadily directed against such an arrangement. But "Satan

now is wiser than of yore," and despotism achieves its choicest triumphs by means of popular suffrage. The hopes thrown out by the Emperor of a time of peace and commerce are judiciously brought forward to lull the apprehensions of Europe while this Italian arrangement is coming off. The respite is good for us, but we must not expect that it will not also be convenient to him; and he is a man who throws no chance away.

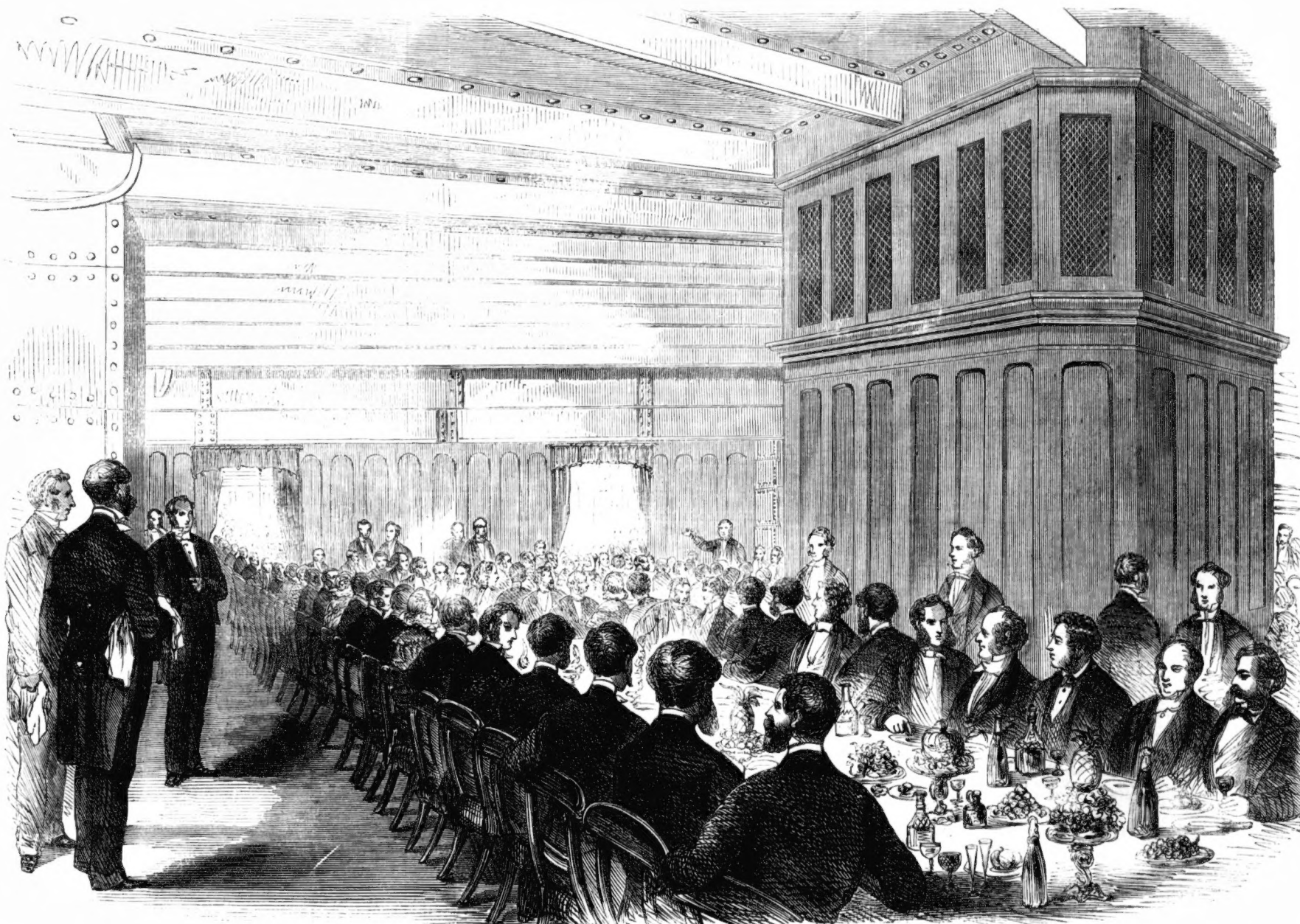
A characteristic feature of the lull is the tone in which the French press have been writing about the fortifications of Antwerp. This alone might warn us how temporary the lull is likely to be. There is no answer to the obvious remark that fortifications are as natural as standing armies. But France has drunk so deep of the spirit of domineering that she needs only the barest pretexts to induce her to domineer. She dislikes the very look of an independent nationality, for she is always haunted with the recollection of her triumphs over neighbouring nations. It is scarcely necessary to say, on the other hand, that England's interest is to maintain the independence of all historical nations, to prevent the ascendancy of any one Power. To her, the fact that Antwerp is being fortified is on the whole satisfactory; not a bit the less so that a certain portion of the fortifications would be specially useful against herself.

Of the reductions in forces proposed by his Majesty of France not so much has been heard this week. The uncertainty prevailing about the Italian question disturbs all calculations of the kind, and, in truth, the first impulse of the public is always to inquire what underlies his Majesty's expressions rather than to accept them in their plain signification. As far as England is concerned, she is anxious to make her expenditure as moderate as possible, and she is, indeed, too easily persuaded generally to put down her preparations. This time, however, unless we are much mistaken, the fit of activity has come over her with greater force than for some years back. The English people has thoroughly taken up the question of defences, and has absolutely got up a tolerable Channel fleet. We suspect

that this last possession will not be cheerfully surrendered, and if Napoleon is sincere he will not ask so much. We have no other school for our seamen and no other way of retaining them. If we pay them off now, they will be blown away out of our reach by the four winds; whereas the fleet as it exists affords an admirable opportunity of giving a new tone and efficiency to the whole service.

The political amnesty declared on Wednesday may be interpreted charitably as another attempt to conciliate Europe. It is the most liberal thing Napoleon has yet done, and one of the best results of the war—among the consequences of which (for he needs every assistance from public opinion just now) it must be ranked. We are glad to hail it as a homage to all who love freedom. But we must not forget that, if it is liberal of him to let his prisoners out, it was cruel to put them in; and that the injury done to many a man, whose only crime was standing up for the liberty of France, cannot be undone by reversing his sentence. Repentance is a good thing; but it were better not to have sinned; and that repentance will always be suspicious which wears the air of a convenience to him who repents.

Assuming that Italy settles down into a half-and-half kind of liberty as the result of the war—that there is no more bloodshed—that something, though little, remains as a balance for her after all—Louis Napoleon may enter on a new career. He may once more try peace, and have England for a friend. It rests with himself. The respite may then be changed into a permanent tranquillity, and he may descend to posterity with the reputation (better than a mere conqueror's) of having shown some of the qualities of the conqueror combined with power to resist the temptations of conquest. We hope so; not very sanguinely perhaps, but eagerly. If, however, the respite proves only to be temporary, and affairs take the other direction, then it will become the duty of all nations intent on the equilibrium of Europe to unite for the purpose of curbing French ambition by armed force.



THE BANQUET ON BOARD THE "GREAT EASTERN."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE fêtes of Sunday last and the amnesty which followed them we describe elsewhere. Here we have only to announce that the Emperor and Empress propose to rusticate at St. Sauveur, a village in the Pyrenees, and that his Majesty seems to have recognised the son of the late ruler of Tuscany (abdicated) as already placed on the ducal throne. In announcing the reception of the Marquis de Nerli, Envoy of this Prince, the *Moniteur* refers to him as the Grand Duke. The "young Grand Duke of Tuscany" arrived in Paris on Wednesday. "He has been received by the Emperor, who invited him to remain for some time at Paris, in order to await what events may transpire. The Emperor gave him a very kind and gracious reception."

The *Moniteur* contains the following list of nominations to the Senate:—Generals Renault, Forey, Thiry, Prince de la Moskowa, Admiral Tréhouart, Comte Labedeyere, M. Paul Richemont, and Baron Vincent.

AUSTRIA.

A Ministerial crisis reigns in Austria. A special Commission appointed by the Emperor for working out the new Constitution sits daily. Count Rechberg (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Count Leo Thun (Minister of Public Instruction), Count Ciam-Martinitz (Chief of the Government of Cracow), Count Wolkenstein (Imperial Councillor), and Baron Hübnér (formerly Ambassador at Paris), take part in the sittings of the Commission. An employé in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs acts as secretary.

Baron Bach has tendered his resignation because the reforms he proposed were rejected by the Emperor. It is asserted that the Constitution which the commission is about to work out will be characterised by the principle of decentralisation; by the re-establishment of the representation of the provinces (*Landstaende*); by great prerogatives given to the aristocracy of all the provinces; and, lastly, by "a strict catholic spirit."

Conflicting accounts reach us regarding the present relations of the Prussian and Austrian Governments. According to some statements, they are on the worst possible terms, Austria refusing to apologise for the insinuations contained in the Imperial manifesto of Laxenbourg. A generally well-informed journal, however, asserts the very contrary of this, and publishes an analysis of a despatch which is alleged to have been sent last week by Count Rechberg to the Austrian Envoy at Berlin; and which, judging from this analysis, is calculated to conciliate the Prussian Government.

ITALY.

The progress of Victor Emmanuel through his newly-acquired province has been attended by great manifestations of loyalty on the part of the people. At Turin and at Milan the Fête Napoleon was celebrated with much éclat. A déjeuner was given to the King by Marshal Vaillant at Milan. His Majesty proposed the health of Napoleon III., Prince Carignan that of the Empress and the Imperial Prince, General de la Marmora that of the French army, and Marshal Vaillant proposed the health of the King of Sardinia, concluding his speech with these words:—

"To the chief of this fine and powerful army, the standards of which were united on the Black Sea and on the plains of the Po with the French eagle, and which on every occasion showed itself as a noble rival of our army. To the heroic King, who holds the ancient and noble sword of the house of Savoy, who made it shine with great lustre in the sun of Palestro and Solferino."

The King returned to Turin on the 17th.

From Naples we learn that the remaining Swiss soldiers having refused to comply with the new regulations, thus continuing to give examples of insubordination, the Government has ordered the Foreign Legion to be disbanded.

The report of the resignation of Cardinal Antonelli is denied positively. That statesman, we are told, never possessed more of the confidence of the Pope than he does at present. The same authority on which this is asserted adds, that if the Central Italian Princes be restored the Pope will not refuse to accept the honorary Presidency of the Italian Confederation, leaving to the King of Naples the real leadership, as to him, his Holiness is of opinion, it of right belongs, since his dominions are the largest in Italy.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

The Sultan has returned to Constantinople, and on Thursday week gave M. Thouvenel a gracious reception. Baron de Prokesch-Osten hastened to pay his respects to M. de Thouvenel. The official journal states that amicable relations had been established between these two Ambassadors. The same journal also states that Sir Henry Bulwer gave an explanation respecting the British squadron having been at Alexandria—namely, that it was there in honour of the contemplated visit of the Sultan.

Disturbances have taken place in Candia, and some gendarmes have been strangled and put to death.

The Czar has presented the Sultan with the decoration of the Order of St. Andrew in diamonds, valued at 1,000,000 piasters, in acknowledgement of the reception recently given to the Grand Duke Constantine.

The Sultan has sanctioned the double election of Prince Couza on the condition that he comes to Constantinople to render homage.

Accounts from Belgrade state that the death of the senator Voutchich, who had been arrested by order of Prince Milosch, on a charge of being engaged in a conspiracy against him, has caused considerable agitation in that city. Strong suspicions of foul play had been raised, and a post-mortem examination of the body was demanded. This was refused by the Prince, who had a guard placed round the tomb of the deceased.

AMERICA.

A letter from President Buchanan is published in which he solemnly and peremptorily denies that he intends to seek a renomination to the Presidency.

On the Rio Grande 3000 United States' troops were almost ready to march on the city of Mexico. In the Mexican Republic itself the struggle of the factions still continued.

The *New York Herald* announces the cession of the sovereignty of certain portions of the Atlantic and gulf coasts of the Isthmus to Great Britain, and her acceptance of it, and it waits over the complete line of possession which England seems now to have obtained on the American seaboard, from Canada to Demerara.

A fresh gold fever had sprung up in Eastern California.

We have accounts of another frightful railway accident on the Northern Railroad. While passing over a bridge the structure gave way, and the train was precipitated into the creek, twenty-five feet below. Fifteen or twenty lives were thus lost.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

His Excellency Sir H. Storks has issued the following characteristic notification:—

The Lord High Commissioner has received during the last three months several anonymous letters.

His Excellency hopes that it is unnecessary for him to declare his abhorrence of a practice at once unmanly and cowardly.

His Excellency requests that this system of moral assassination may cease, and desires it to be distinctly understood that for the future every anonymous communication will be returned to the Post Office whence it came, with instructions to the Postmaster to place it in a conspicuous part of the office, in order that the writer may reclaim it, if he thinks proper to do so. If any person has any charges to bring against individuals, or any complaints to make for the Lord High Commissioner's consideration, they must be preferred openly and substantiated in person.

His Excellency would remind the writers of anonymous letters that they are not living under the Venetian Republic, and that the "lion's mouth" is not a national institution.

Palace, Corfu, July 29.

THE *North China Herald* notices the marriage of a couple of Chinese Christians by the Rev. K. C. Wong, a Chinese Minister, as the first instance in which all the parties concerned were at once Chinese, Christian, and Protestant.

THE AMNESTY IN FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* of Wednesday contained the following Imperial decree:—

"A full and entire amnesty is granted to all persons sentenced for political crimes or offences, or those who have been the object of any measures taken for public security (une amnistie pleine et entière est accordée à tous les individus qui ont été condamnés pour des crimes ou des délits politiques, ou qui ont été objets des mesures prises pour la sûreté générale)."

Louis Blanc writes in reference to this measure:—

"I will not stop to inquire whether it be fit that the offender should be the forger; that 'crimes' should be remitted which never were committed; and that those should be pardoned who were so cruelly wronged, having been, although guiltless, driven out of their country, torn from their families and their friends, consigned to absolute ruin, and, in fact, bereft of all they held dear on earth. Speaking in my own name alone, and judging from a mere practical point of view, I own candidly that, situated as he is, Louis Bonaparte could now hardly do more for us than he has just done. But it is not the less true that those whose hearts have been for years made to bleed from innumerable wounds have a claim to something better than a contemptuous and perhaps unsafe favour. What was due to them in the shape of justice cannot be paid to them in the shape of pardon."

"But considerations of a higher significance and more general import are involved in the question. Let freedom be wholly and sincerely restored to France: I, for one, am prepared to applaud. Our wrongs we might forget: may we be indifferent to the wrongs of our country?"

"We are permitted to return to France. So long as she is kept in bondage why should we go? To complete the victory of might over right—to render Imperial despotism still more absolutely unopposed—to extinguish the few last beacons which, fed by French hands, yet loom in the distance before the eyes of our unhappy country—in one word, to be slaves among slaves. Better stay in the land of unfettered thought and free speech; better live where to be an exile is to remain a man."

"It is recorded that in the revolution of 1789, at the first celebrated Fête du Champ de Mars, some fifty Englishmen were seen wearing on their breast a medal, on which these words were inscribed:—'Ubi Libertas, ibi Patria.' Without presuming to sit in judgment upon such of my countrymen as may take a different view of the case, I venture to say that this should be the motto of every man feelingly alive to the dignity of his own nature. Not that I consider my beloved country less entitled to claim our devotion, because temporarily shackled. No! The very state of intellectual debasement and moral agony in which France is now plunged endears her the more to us, as we know it originates in a fatal combination of uncontrollable circumstances, and is maintained by brute force alone. That France will, sooner or later, be warmed into life and be herself again, is a creed which I fondly cherish, and to which I cling with unshakable conviction. But, so long as she is forced into silence and darkness, I take it to be necessary that some, at least, of her most faithful sons should, by living abroad, retain the power of representing her true genius, of making known her sorrows, denouncing her wrongs, invoking her most glorious recollections, vindicating her stifled aspirations after freedom, and championing in her name the eternal principles of justice and the rights of reason."

THE PARIS FETES.

PARIS spent a whole week in arrangements for the grand military fête of Sunday last, and a splendid appearance she made. Venetian masts, or tall flagstaves, painted, spangled, and surmounted by pennons having the names of the late victories inscribed on them in letters of gold, were planted at short distances along a great part of the Boulevards; handsome columns, bearing appropriate inscriptions, and decorated with flags and garlands, sprung up near the different theatres and at various points of the line. The houses and balconies were gaily with banners and hung with coloured lanterns; with a host of minor adornments which would be tedious in description, but which as a whole produced a most brilliant effect. There were besides a few more prominent and important objects which call for a word or two of special mention. The eye was caught by a tall, square, turreted tower on the Place du Trône, close to the barrier of that name. It was the observatory, thus transformed for the occasion. From the summit of the tower, painted to imitate stone, a banner waved; on the sides eagles were depicted, and on all the four sides were the names of Solferino, Magenta, Palestro, Melegnano, and Montebello. On the Place de la Bastille a very fair copy of the front of Milan Cathedral, about sixty feet high, was got up, surmounted by the inscription, "To the Army of Italy, the City of Paris." Below were the names of the engagements and the numbers of all the regiments that fought in Italy. On the boulevard close to the Cirque Napoleon was a lofty portico, with three arcades, magnificent in gilding and decoration. At the corner of the Rue Marivaux, which runs down one side of the Opéra Comique, was an extremely handsome triumphal column. Throughout all these ornamental devices the usual ingenuity of the French decorator was conspicuous. His theatrical instincts never desert him, and, with Paris for his stage, he gets up a fairy spectacle at three days' notice.

Early on Saturday evening the stree's of Paris were crowded. Every train, and they were many, from all points of the compass brought large additions to the mass of mortality assembled in that city. Every half-hour throughout the day you saw hackney-coaches, with exhausted horses and perspiring drivers, crammed inside with strangers and laden outside with luggage, converging from the stations to the centre of the city. Many of these eager provincials must have bivouacked in some back street, judging from the impossibility they seemed to find in obtaining admission to an hotel. One came upon them, disconsolate and supplicatory, mounting guard over their trunks and bandboxes, at the door of some inexorable inn whose hostess would not be softened, or of some second-rate *maison garnie*, whose mistress seemed rather to turn up her nose at them in the consciousness that her establishment was full to the uppermost garret. All these people, when they had at last obtained a nook of shelter, naturally felt the necessity of dining, and hard-worked men were the waiters of restaurants and eating-houses of all kinds up to eight or nine in the evening. By that time every house in the town seemed to have emptied itself upon the Boulevards and into the principal streets. It was a hot evening, and the prodigious congregation of humanity made it hotter still. The atmosphere one inhaled was an agreeable mixture of steam and dust. Even the moon—generally considered a cool sort of luminary—looked down red and sultry upon the bustling scene. It is suspected that a great many persons omitted the usual ceremony of going to bed. They were certainly at the cafés and about the streets till hard upon two, and by five o'clock carriages were rumbling in all directions, and the town, awaking from its brief and broken slumbers, was beginning its day's work. For work it surely must be called, whatever the object. Nine was the hour of rendezvous. The troops were to leave the camp of St. Maur at such time as might enable the head of the column to be on the Place de la Bastille at that hour, and there the Emperor was to place himself at their head. By nine o'clock, therefore, Paris was all in the streets to "assist" at the spectacle. Take this sketch of the Boulevard des Italiens. Right and left, looking from a window that commands the whole of that boulevard, the eye was first caught by the multitude of human beings stationed in every place where they could possibly find a footing. The broad asphalté footpaths were the least densely packed, although a line of spectators five or six deep, many of whom had been there for the last two or three hours, occupied that portion of it nearest the carriageway. Along the extreme edge of the kerb, on each side of the road, was drawn up a line of troops, soldiers on one side, National Guards on the other. This extended along the whole of the route the army was to follow. Vehicles being prohibited, the road remained to pedestrians and to the officers on duty. But it was

frequently cleared by the passage of bodies of troops on their way to take up their stations somewhere in the line of the procession. The surrounding houses were thronged up to the highest point at which sitting or standing place could be found. That the windows and balconies were full need hardly be said; while among the ugly crows and long zinc tubes that disfigure the roofs of Paris a host of adventurous persons found perches. Amusing accounts are given of the scenes witnessed on the roads round Paris. By daybreak they were covered with peasants, hastening to see the show. As to the railways from the different places in the vicinity, they could not suffice for the demand upon them. Numbers of elegantly-dressed ladies, who had waited until the last moment to repair to the fêtes, were too happy to take a passage in dirty luggage-waggons. The damage done to millinery and expensive skirts must have been considerable, but the wearers will hardly complain, for they will have seen the show, not to have seen which, when they were within possible distance of it, would have been a pang and reproach to a Frenchwoman for the term of her natural life.

"It is now a quarter past ten," says a correspondent, "and the head of the great military pageant has halted at the western extremity of the Boulevard Montmartre. A small advanced guard, the very apex of the column, is composed of a detachment of the Cent Gardes. Five gorgeous trumpeters ahead, and then a score of the chosen troopers of that brilliant little corps. They halt opposite the Opéra Comique. Away to the left, where the Emperor and his Staff have made a brief pause, is heard a clamour of applause. Presently the column moves on, the Emperor in front, occasionally taking off his cocked hat, and frequently touching it with the military salute. He is in the undress of a general officer, blue frock, and broad red ribbon of the Legion of Honour. He is well received. The French have a mode of cheering which makes it difficult to know exactly what or whom it is they are acclaiming. However, many cries of 'Vive l'Empereur!' are distinguishable through the confused uproar. Bouquets are thrown from the windows to the Emperor and his Staff. He advances very gradually, reining in his fine charger to its slowest walk, pursued by shouts and more flowers, until he is lost in the distance beyond his Staff and escort. There seems to be some change in the order of march as originally announced. The Austrian guns were to have preceded the General commanding the Guard and his Staff. Instead of that are the wounded, lame, and maimed, with arms in slings, and pallid visages, following each other in the order of their regiments. First are the Chasseurs, then the Voltigeurs (very numerous these, and reminding one of the long-contested light round Solferino's old tower), then the Zouaves and the Grenadiers, who gathered their laurels chiefly at Magenta. Soldiers of the line follow, and also the Turcos, with their bright blue uniforms and their dingy faces. Torrents of applause follow for the wounded, and a reserve of flowers is brought forward for their particular benefit—good substantial bouquets, which a vigorous arm can pitch into the very centre of the boulevard. There, at yonder corner window, a pretty actress of the Opéra Comique has established herself, with a vast store of nosegays, and keeps up a well-sustained fire with an accuracy of aim that should qualify her for the Tirailleurs. The wounded have already, on the tolerably long march from the Bastille, been abundantly provided with flowers and laurel wreaths, and much that now falls at their feet is left for those that come behind them. It is difficult exactly to measure applause and signs of sympathy in the rapid succession now going on, but it seems to me that they are more copiously bestowed on the wounded than on the conqueror who preceded them, but who, nevertheless, had no reason to complain."

"The troops march past in divisions or sections of forty men each—two ranks, having a front of twenty. The pageant becomes almost monotonous after the first half-hour. Every now and then, however, some little incident or novelty delights the crowd and redoubles the cheers. Here comes by a battalion of the Chasseurs of the Guard (it is nearly all Guard that goes by first), bearing the tattered banner on which the Emperor conferred the decoration of the Legion of Honour. A huge red cross is attached to the upper part of the staff, about which the colours hang in shreds. The passage of some popular General augments the applause, and produces an increasing waving of the countless white handkerchiefs which white hands flutter from the windows. Hark to that wild march! It is the signal for a burst of cheering. The Zouaves of the Guard are going by, and are greeted as so popular a corps might expect to be. They certainly are the most picturesque set of desperadoes that ever drew trigger—at least, in any modern army. On they go, with their usual swaggering swing and stride, bearded and sunburnt; and after them come the grave and more stately Grenadiers, in their most uncomfortable long coats and heavy bearskins. But where are the trophies of the campaign—where the captured guns and colours—which we were promised in the programme? The *Moniteur* said in its programme of the order of march—first the Emperor with his escort and suite, then the Austrian flag borne by soldiers of the different corps, then the guns. Instead of which the whole of the Guard has gone by, artillery and all (the cavalry only being reserved to bring up the rear of the army), and no trophies have yet appeared. It is not far from noon, and there is still a great mass of troops to go by. Here come the Austrian standards, four in number. Two of them are in pretty good condition, and, as the wind blows out their folds, the double eagle is displayed upon the yellow ground. A third is borne in its oilskin case; of the fourth only a few tatters still cling to the battered pole. They are borne by the men who took them, escorted by two soldiers of each regiment of the corps to which each captor belonged. The flags were taken by the Guard, 1st, 2nd, and 4th corps. Then come the guns, equally distinguishable by the make and colour of their carriages. Upwards of thirty go by, and the march continues; more troops, and still more—a continued broad stream glistening with bayonets pouring over the low brow of the Montmartre Boulevard, surging onward and past us and disappearing in the gulf of the Rue de la Paix. Here is the head of another corps, and the leading band plays a lively and well-known strain, the favourite patriotic air of the Milanese, which one heard everywhere in Northern Italy before, during, and since the war. The progress is less rapid than it at first appeared; there are occasional halts in order to allow the rear of the column to recover the ground gained on it by the more advanced divisions. Three more corps pass after this one, and all is over."

"The march lasted less time than had been anticipated, owing to the goodness of the arrangements and the rapid pace of the troops. The halts were remarkably few and short, considering the tendency of the head of a long column to detach itself from the tail. By a quarter past two the whole of the troops had gone by—in four hours instead of six, which their passage had been expected to occupy. The only mishaps were a couple of showers; the last a very heavy one, which must have thoroughly soaked the troops. There must have been a great many very hoarse throats the next morning, for the acclamations on the whole line of passage were almost unintermitted. Particular regiments and persons of course redoubled their energy. The Marshals, at the head of their corps, were all extremely well received. A virandière, severely wounded, who was taken by in a carriage, drew thunders of applause from the crowd. The cavalry looked extremely well. It consisted of three brigades—one of two regiments of Cuirassiers, one of the Dragoons de l'Impératrice, and a very fine regiment of Lancers; and the third brigade, which marched first, was composed of the Chasseurs à Cheval, all on gray horses, and of the well-known and elegant regiment of Guides. Two or three regiments belonging to the corps present on Monday had received other destinations, and did not share the enthusiastic reception Paris gave to their comrades. Among these was the first regiment of the Foreign Legion, which covered itself with glory at Magenta. It went into action 900 strong, and only 480 came out. It was then sent into quarters at Milan, and has now gone to Corsica. The third Zouaves, whose charge at Palestro was headed by King Victor Emmanuel, was also absent from yesterday's festival. It was remarked that the Emperor rode considerably in front of his Staff, and the popular belief is that he did so in order that, in case of any attempt on his life, others should not share his danger. I believe

nobody apprehended any such attempt on the part of Frenchmen. The troops, and especially those regiments which had seen him in the midst of them at Magenta and Solferino, cheered him heartily as they passed. When the wounded, who were preceded by some of the chaplains of the army, passed before the Emperor, he advanced a few steps, removed his cocked hat, and saluted them. This was the signal for much applause. At three o'clock all was completely over, the Emperor returned to the Tuileries, and the vast crowd dispersed. A considerable portion of it had been scattered by the rain, which cleared the roofs of the houses most effectually, sending their adventurous occupants (among whom were many well-dressed women) popping in through garret windows like rabbits scared into their burrows. Fortunately the evening proved fine; there was no wind, and the illuminations prospered. These were not general (many being reserved for the next night), but were sufficiently numerous and brilliant to produce a good effect. The crowd was most orderly and good-humoured, and there was little apparent police.

Another eye-witness writes:—"It would neither be just nor generous to omit the really bright and pleasant sensations imparted during the ceremony. Among these the aspect of the Emperor must be recorded as the most memorable. Never was beauty beheld to greater advantage than on this occasion. Attired in white, enveloped in clouds of rich lace, through which her soft complexion was softened even more, she appeared the most perfect realisation of Imperial grace and dignity which has ever been beheld. The taste displayed by her costume was also matter of admiration. No fantastical bonnet concealed her features from the admiring crowd; a long veil of Brussels point was thrown over her head, and the forehead encircled with the Imperial diamond—the great Sanci diamond, which flashed and sparkled in the sun with the rarest brilliancy. Her Majesty was accompanied by the Prince Imperial in the uniform of the Grenadiers of the Guard, and as in France there is always a sympathy with the nursery, the *Moniteur* itself (*Journal officiel de l'Empire Français*), loves to tell how the Emperor, taking the little Prince on the saddle before him, the young hero drew his tiny sword, to which the thunders of applause from the crowd and the tears of the veterans responded with sublime effect. The *Moniteur*, however, does not record the answer made to this sudden demonstration by the little Prince; but a lady who sat in the tribune immediately opposite informs me that, terrified by the sudden and unexpected burst, the poor infant set up a most tremendous howl—perhaps the only touch of nature in the whole pageant."

The second corps-d'armée, which, under MacMahon, decided the battle of Magenta, and behaved so valiantly throughout the campaign, particularly at the closing fight of Solferino, did not exhibit an Austrian flag—a curious instance that fortune does not always award the spoils of victory to those who in reality won them. The conquered standards were in succession lowered and presented to the Emperor, and then surrendered into the custody of a Cent Garde in attendance on his Majesty. With the exception of one—which appeared quite new, with the flaunting yellow, guiltless of the stain of battle—they were all riddled and soiled, eloquent witnesses of how deadly was the struggle to retain possession of them. The guns which followed the flags appeared mostly pieces of position. Some were spiked, others indented and seamed with French shot. Mounted on timbers, painted yellow, they were easily recognisable, and their appearance was greeted with loud and enthusiastic applause.

The great event of the evening was the sumptuous banquet given by the Emperor to the superior officers of the army of Italy, in one of the new galleries of the Louvre (la Salle des Etats). The Empress, her ladies of honour, and the wives of some of the Generals were present. The gallery was splendidly illuminated with several hundred lamps, placed on gilt pillars. Dinner was served at seven o'clock. During the repast some magnificent music was performed. The orchestra of the Imperial Academy of Music was led by M. Girard, and the choir by M. Pas-de-Loup, all under the direction of M. Auber. At the conclusion the Emperor proposed the health of the army. His Majesty said:—

Gentlemen,—The joy I experience at finding myself again with most of the chiefs of the army of Italy would be complete if it were tinged with the regret to behold soon the dissolution of the elements of a force so well organised and formidable. As Sovereign and as Commander-in-Chief I thank you again for your confidence. It was flattering to me, who had never commanded an army, to find so much obedience on the part of men who had great experience in warfare. If success has crowned our efforts, I am happy to attribute the greater part of it to those skilful and devoted Generals who rendered my command easy, because, animated with the sacred fire, they have incessantly given the example of duty and of disregard of death. A portion of our soldiers are about to return to their homes; you yourselves are about to resume the occupations of peace. Nevertheless, do not forget what we have done together. Let the remembrance of obstacles overcome, of dangers eluded, of imperfections discovered, be ever present to your mind; for to the warrior past experience is science. In commemoration of the Italian campaign I shall distribute a medal to all who took part in it; and I wish that to-day you may be the first to wear it. May it recall me sometimes to your memory, and, while reading the glorious names engraved thereon, let each exclaim, "If France has done so much for a people who is her friend, what would she not do for her own independence!" I propose the health of the army.

The Minister of War has decided that each wounded and invalid soldier of the army of Italy shall receive an allowance of a franc a day, payable every month, until the pensions shall be regulated. Those soldiers whose period of service does not entitle them to a retiring pension are to receive a gratuity of 205*fr.* a year for the non-commissioned officers, and 180*fr.* for the private soldiers, as long as their infirmities prevent them from earning their bread.

THE LAW IN JAPAN.—All the world is talking of Japan, of the pleasure-trips to be made thither, or already made, and the amount of business to be done "when the ports are opened." An occurrence of the last week or two, however, may be fraught with dangerous consequences to trade. One of Messrs. Dent and Co.'s steamers took to Nagasaki a number of passengers, among whom was a Frenchman, who induced a Japanese girl to leave her home by stealth, and accompany him to Shanghai. The poor creature, on arriving at Shanghai, caused a great commotion in the place, the strict laws prohibitory of Japanese emigration being well known; and the owners of the steamer sent her back again to Japan with the unfortunate female on board. On arriving, the vessel was boarded at once by a couple of officials, who affected to ignore her presence until all the formalities were completed, and then took her into custody. The poor thing struggled against her fate in vain. She was landed, and, as I am informed, condemned to death, together with all her relatives, and some officer or officers who ought to have prevented her escape.—*Letter from Shanghai.*

THE CHOLERA IN GERMANY.—A letter from the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg says:—"The cholera has broken out with great violence in some towns and villages of this duchy. In some of the villages the harvest operations have been suspended for want of hands, sixty to seventy persons having been taken ill at the same time. The disease breaks out first in one place and then in another, sparing for a time intermediate villages, and then turning back on them with increased violence. The ports of Rostock and Warnemünde have not escaped the malady, which was brought there, it is supposed, by a vessel from St. Petersburg. The cholera continues to rage at Hamburg, carrying off from sixty to seventy persons daily."

WHAT NEXT?—M. Granier de Cassagnac, in an article in the *Pays*, headed "The Return of the Legions," says that the Emperor, in projecting the Italian campaign, imagined a deed which might have been thought as impossible. What poet would dare to rewrite the "Æneid"? What orator to rival the funeral oration of Condé? The Emperor, however, has accomplished impossibilities. He went to Italy a great statesman, and returned at the end of two months a great captain. The four armies which the first Bonaparte vanquished were not, when put altogether, equal to the force just beaten by Napoleon III.; the passage of the Adige, at Lodi, in the face of 18,000 men, was not more difficult than the passage of the Ticino at Magenta, in the face of 80,000; the souvenirs of Montenotte, Castiglione, and Rivoli do not pale the glory of the sixteen hours of Solferino; and Villafraña equals Leoben. The late war, which is thus proved to have placed Napoleon III. entirely on a level with Napoleon I. as a great captain, did not, however, suffice to confer upon any of his subordinate Generals a reputation equal to that of the men whose names are associated in history with the deeds of the founder of the Bonaparte dynasty. For that something is yet wanting, and in the following paragraph we are told what that something is:—"What is wanting to the names illustrated in the campaign just concluded, to place them on a level with those of Berthier, Joubert, Kellerman, Lannes, Murat, Angereau, and Massena? Only a few more campaigns, if it should please God to have some in reserve for us, and that nimbus of glory which time alone adds to renown."

AFFAIRS OF ITALY. THE CONFERENCE.

All that we have heard of the Conference at Zurich is that the Plenipotentiaries do not seem to get on very well together. It is asserted that the Austrian Plenipotentiaries decline to confer directly with the Piedmontese Plenipotentiary, who protests against Lombardy being charged with any portion of the Austrian debt. The *Times* has "positive intelligence" that the Conference has made no progress since its sitting of the 8th instant, in which the prolongation of the armistice was decided upon until such time as the treaty that is to be drawn up shall be ratified. "This delay is attributed partly to Austria sticking on matters of etiquette, especially as regards the cession of Lombardy. That province having been given up to France, and not to Sardinia, the Austrian Plenipotentiary considers that it is only with M. de Bourqueney that he is to discuss the details of that condition of the convention. M. de Bourqueney, on his part, has, of course, to consult with M. Desambrois, as the representative of the Power to which the Emperor Napoleon at once transferred the rights wrung by victories from the Emperor Francis Joseph." Much loss of time is caused by this sort of double negotiation. The question of the debt—of the portion of it, that is to say, which is to be borne by Lombardy—is also still unsettled. However, the *Ost Deutsche Post* (Austrian paper) anticipates a "satisfactory" result from the Conference:—"We see a proof that this will be so in the dispositions of Austria and France, and in the concessions of Sardinia. King Victor Emmanuel has renounced further resistance. He contents himself with what he owes to the friendship of France, and which he can only preserve by grateful devotedness to his generous benefactor. Now, Sardinia being disposed to accomplish the obligations which she accepted by consenting to the preliminaries, no serious obstacles can arise to the execution of those preliminaries. The agitation in the Duchies and in Romagna, the result of the vote in Tuscany, &c., however much noise may be made about them, will be speedily reduced to very little as soon as the veritable state of things shall be made known. And that veritable state will be known as soon as Piedmont shall seriously withdraw her support from agitators—as soon as the revolution shall know positively that it has nothing to hope for from France."

On the 18th the Plenipotentiaries, their secretaries, and a deputation of the Zurich Government, were present at a banquet given by M. de Bourqueney on the occasion of the fête of the Emperor. The president proposed the health of the Emperor, M. de Bourqueney and M. de Bonneville that of the Swiss Confederation and the Zurich Government. The Plenipotentiaries of the three Powers at Zurich have accepted an invitation of the Federal Council to visit Berne.

THE DUCHIES.

The National Assembly of Tuscany met on the 13th in the Hall of the Five Hundred (once the great council-room of the Florentine Republic), under the presidency of Signor Coppi. On Tuesday, the 16th, this proposition was discussed—"That the Assembly shall declare the reign of the dynasty of Lorraine as impossible in Tuscany." The proposition was affirmed unanimously. It was afterwards resolved "That the Assembly declares it to be the firm will of Tuscany to form a strong part of the kingdom of Italy under the constitutional sceptre of King Victor Emmanuel." Commissioners of the Governments of France, England, Prussia, and Russia, were present at the discussion.

M. Tito Coppi, who has been nominated President of the National Assembly at Florence, is Honorary Judge and formally President of the Court of Appeal, and is one of the most eminent magistrates of Tuscany. He took no part in the recent political movements, and consequently the choice of him by the Assembly may be considered a proof of impartiality and prudence.

The National Guard of Florence entered upon its duties for the first time on the 7th, having been equipped and organised in a few weeks.

A private letter from Vienna announces that a manifesto is being prepared at the Imperial printing-office, which the young Grand Duke of Tuscany proposes to address to the people of his country on the day when the Conferences of Zurich shall have closed. This document is said to be drawn up in a very liberal sense. The Prince promises a Constitution based on a system of national representation similar to that which exists in Sardinia. He also proposes the removal of numerous abuses in the Administration.

In Modena the elections were conducted in a most orderly manner. On the 16th, after a solemn service had been performed at the Cathedral, at which all the bodies of the State were present, Signor Farini opened the National Assembly in the grande salle of the Palace amid enthusiastic plaudits. After having spoken a few eloquent words on the history of Modena during the present century, on that of the Sardinian Government, that of the different provinces, and on the last Dictatorship, he deposited the powers given him as Dictator into the hands of the Deputies. He urged them to express freely and with that calmness which is the result of right their wishes for the definitive settlement of the Constitution of the country, and in addressing himself to Europe he said, "We are ready to give to the civilised world all the guarantees of order and peace, on the condition that liberty is assured to us, and that Italy shall belong to the Italians." The Assembly voted an address of thanks to Napoleon III. At the close of the assembly the Modenese troops fired a salute from the ramparts of the town.

We were startled last week by a rumour of a red-republican revolt at Parma, of the driving away of the Piedmontese troops from the city, and the flight of the propertied class. This rumour has been formally contradicted by the Mayor of Parma, now in Paris. "The people," says he, "are too well aware of the importance of a regular and legitimate manifestation of their wishes to quit the path of legality for one moment. Unanimously resolved as they are to resist by every means—even by force, if necessary—any and every idea or attempt to restore the old dynasty, they are organising actively, and their votes will prove to Europe that their one and only desire, conformably to their moral and material interests, is to be definitively united to Piedmont under the constitutional sceptre of the House of Savoy."—Since this letter was published the people have so voted. A very distinct proof of the nascent constitutional life of Parma is to be seen in the fact that already the Government has proclaimed a voluntary loan of £100,000.

GARIBALDI.

Garibaldi has sought and obtained leave of absence from Piedmontese service "for causes unconnected with his allegiance to that Crown." He has definitely accepted the chief command of all the forces in Central Italy.

ABDUCTION BY THE ROMAN CATHOLICS IN CANADA.—The Canada papers contain a great deal about an alleged case of abduction by the Roman Catholics. A gentleman of Montreal, the Hon. Leander Starr, has a daughter—carefully educated, intelligent, fond of her parents, and so forth. About two months ago she was missed one morning, and in her bedroom was found a note stating that she had felt it her duty to God to leave her parents to seek religious peace in conventual life. Her father at once commenced a search. The Roman Catholic Bishop gave him leave to search the convents, but the search was unavailing. In two or three days another letter came from Miss Starr stating that she was happily placed in a convent where she could forget the world. The search was again prosecuted by the bereaved father for six weeks, and at last proved successful. The daughter was discovered in a convent in Toledo—into which her father gained entrance by stratagem—much wasted by sickness, and ardently wishing to return to her parents.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AMERICA.—Everybody may not know that a fierce war is raging in the countries which form the north-west corner of South America—Peru and Ecuador. The coasts of the latter are blockaded, and no blockade can be established anywhere without injury to British interests. We are informed that Lord John Russell has directed the Admiral on the station to gather what information may be possible on the subject of this war and the position of the parties, and also to station a British man-of-war on the blockaded coast to look after British interests.

A Saxon Forester has made public the means by which, he affirms, he has rescued many human beings and cattle from death by hydrophobia. Take immediately warm vinegar or tepid water, wash the wound clean therewith, and dry it; then pour upon the wound a few drops of hydrochloric acid.

THE SERF QUESTION IN RUSSIA.

THE St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Times* has a very interesting letter on this subject. He says:—

"Serfdom in Russia is a modification, and a very slight one, of absolute slavery. The serf cannot be sold away from the estate on which he was born, such estate being valued not for the quantity of its acres, but for the number of serfs attached thereto. The master may not inflict capital punishment, and must provide his serfs with food and houses—if the wretched hovels they inhabit are worthy of that name. With these exceptions the master's powers are absolute. The serf cannot marry without his lord's consent, though early marriages are encouraged, their produce being valuable. The owner can inflict corporal punishment, give the serf any amount of labour, or lease his services to another master."

"During the reign of the late Emperor no attention was paid to the condition of the serf: for Imperial purposes he was simply so much food for powder. Constant requisitions were made on the landowners for their due proportion of serfs to serve in the ranks—generally at the rate of seven, eight, or ten per thousand. These requisitions were made in autumn, after the harvest, or in early winter. The serf was sent at his master's cost to the appointed dépôt for recruits, frequently at a considerable distance from the estate. Such was the desire to escape military service, and so great the mortality en route from neglect, insufficient clothing, and bad food, that in order to secure the arrival of the required number at the dépôt half as many more were dispatched from the estate. On reaching the dépôt the serf was handed over to the barber and deprived of the mass of hair—nature's preservative against cough and catarrh—in which his chin and throat had been enveloped from early manhood. His whisker was shaven close to the ear and he was sent to drill. This naturally produced great mortality from pulmonary, throat, and chest diseases. The survivors, being enlisted for twenty-five years, generally finished their career in the military service."

"No sooner was the present Emperor relieved from the war than he turned his attention to the serf question. He shortened the term of enlistment, and, in consideration of the enormous sacrifice of life which the defence of Sebastopol had entailed, he promised that no new levy of men should be made for a considerable period. This promise has been strictly fulfilled, not a single recruit having been raised throughout Russia since the treaty of Paris was signed. Active, intelligent, and kind-hearted, Alexander II. saw and felt how necessary it was to relieve his empire from the stigma of slavery, and how much more powerful he would become as the ruler of 60,000,000 free men. He knew that his views would be opposed by the old Russian party, who maintain that Russia wants hands, not land, and declare that the serfs, once emancipated, would soon become the masters. He therefore determined to proceed cautiously and slowly. Committees were organised in every province of the empire for the purpose of considering the question in all its bearings. At the head of the central committee the Emperor placed Count Orloff, the leader of the old Russian party, and whose name carries the greatest weight among them. Though the Count probably disapproved the Imperial plans, his opposition was thus silenced and his concurrence obtained. The largest proportion of members composing these committees was nominated by the proprietors, the remainder being appointed by the Government through the Governors-General of the different provinces. The determination of the Emperor is, first, that in the course of twelve or fifteen years serfdom shall be entirely abolished, and the serf shall be a free man; secondly, that the house in which he has been living and a small portion of land shall become his property, or that of a free community whereof he is a member. This house and land are to be paid for either in labour or some other manner, and the committees are to report as to the best mode of arrangement."

"Not satisfied with the mere appointment of committees, the Emperor last year made a tour through a great portion of his dominions, and placed himself in direct communication with the landowners, encouraging the willing and rebuking the froward. The greater number of these committees have already made their reports to head-quarters at St. Petersburg. They have also elected subcommittees to proceed to the capital, where they will form one grand general committee, whose duty it will be to consider the reports and decide on some plan to be laid before the Emperor. The committees are nearly unanimous in admitting the feasibility of the question submitted to them, but great difficulties have been raised as to the proposition to endow the serf with house and land. Some suggest that the serfs on each estate shall be placed in a village to be formed at one corner of the property, their houses being transported there, or wood given to them for building new ones. Others contend that the serf should be set entirely free without land or house. The ground for these objections consists in the fact that an immense number of serfs reside in the immediate vicinity of the landowners' châteaux. If each of these becomes the owner of his house and land, the Lords declare they will become prisoners in their castles, and will cease to be owners of their estates. The Government replies that if the serf be freed without house or land he will starve before obtaining employment, and it fears that if the masters be permitted to fix the sites for the proposed villages the emancipated serfs will be but ill lodged. Meanwhile, the papers daily report the speeches made by the members of the various committees at the close of their labours, on which they comment in very fair style."

"The war proved a great civiliser for many of the serfs. The blockade threw out of employment an immense number of labourers at St. Petersburg, whose curiosity became excited as to the events of the day. Those who had received some education spent their mornings in reading bulletins, &c., to their fellow-workmen. At the various pothouses near the mills the landlords gave refreshments gratis to those officials who would read the papers aloud, so as to attract customers. The demand caused an increase in the supply; and at this moment there are fifty or sixty daily, weekly, and monthly papers published at St. Petersburg, three-fourths of which are written in Russian, and by far the greater portion started since the war. The most reliable information and the most free discussion are to be found in the Russian rather than in the French or German papers. The Government seems anxious that the internal condition of the empire should be fully discussed at home, without permitting the rest of Europe to take part in the debate. Russian local papers are also to be found throughout the entire empire; indeed, there is hardly a Government without one. In the St. Petersburg papers we find pretty fair reports of the proceedings in the English Parliament, translations of articles from the *Times*, &c. &c."

"The serf question has advanced so far toward a solution that retrogression is impossible. The Emperor is honestly determined to carry out his views. The younger nobility accord their full support. The serfs themselves have learnt they have rights as well as duties, and though the old Russian party may delay and obstruct they cannot prevent the final result. Already has a great change taken place among the peasants. Temperance societies have been formed throughout the empire. The peasants meet in communal councils, and award personal chastisement to those who relapse into habits of drunkenness. The farmers of excise duties have become alarmed at the enormous diminution in the consumption of vodka, and have petitioned the Government. A circular has consequently been issued by the Minister of the Interior, addressed to the Provincial Governors. His Excellency declares that

"Sobriety deserves to be encouraged, as the best means of preserving the health and morality of the people. Whenever, therefore, the peasants pass resolutions for abstaining from the use of spirituous liquors they must not be hindered in so laudable a design, provided that the individuals who take the pledge do not attempt to punish those who differ from them, thereby abrogating to themselves a power which the law does not recognise."

"This is sound advice, and if the temperance movement continue to make the rapid progress that has hitherto marked its steps, Russia may hope before long to be freed from her greatest curse, the curse of drunkenness."

PRINCE DANILO has presented a medal to all those officers and soldiers who distinguished themselves at the battle of Grahovo. The claims of the Montenegrin warriors had to be established by the production of a Turk's nose!

ARRIVAL OF THE GRAND DUKE CONSTANTINE AT SPITHEAD.

SOME four years ago Russia could scarcely boast a single man-of-war moved by steam power: she was content then to see her ships blockaded in their ports by our own magnificent fleets. Now her position is somewhat altered, as the late naval review passed at Cronstadt by the Emperor will testify. The twenty-one ships that were there assembled were all propelled by steam. We may, by going to Portsmouth, see with our own eyes some of the finest specimens of the regenerated Muscovite navy, a squadron having lately arrived at Spithead. This squadron was joined last Saturday week by the screw-frigate Swetland, carrying 60 guns (8-inch), with his Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantine on board. The Grand Duke landed at Hyde, and was received by his Excellency Baron Brunnow, the Russian Ambassador at the Court of St. James's. Mr. Vice-Consul Baker was in attendance on board on the arrival of the Swetland, and, in obedience to commands received, waited on his Imperial Highness at the Pier Hotel Hyde. The Swetland exchanged the usual complimentary salutes on passing through the fleet at Spithead. Another steam squadron of six sail is daily expected from the Baltic.

The Grand Duke has assumed the private title of "Admiral Romanoff," and has visited the Queen at Osborne once or twice, without any state or ceremony being observed on either of the occasions. We believe that his Imperial Highness contemplates visiting the Emperor and Empress of France at their villa at Biarritz, on his way round to the Mediterranean.

CRUELTY ON BOARD SHIP.—The mate of an American ship was brought before the magistrates at the North Shields Police Court on Saturday, charged with a shocking assault on a seaman, named David Witham, whose recovery from the injuries he has received is very doubtful. It seems that he and some of the other men had been ashore, and had neglected to move the ship, which is lying in the Northumberland Dock. The prisoner, named Moody, pulled Witham out of his berth by the hair of the head, and some words having taken place, picked up an iron pin called a "norman," and struck the sailor a fearful blow on the head. The man fell to the ground insensible and apparently dying, and the mate fled, but was afterwards captured. If inflammation supervenes the seaman has no hope of Witham's life. He has since been raving mad. It took four men to hold him down. The prisoner was remanded. The borough coroner of Liverpool was engaged (Friday week) on the death of a seaman, named Peter Antonio, belonging to the American ship Conqueror. Antonio had been beaten severely by the mate and carpenter while the vessel was at sea, and died in the hospital on Wednesday week. The surgeon's evidence left the cause of death open to some doubt, and an objection was taken to the jurisdiction of the Court. The Coroner concurred in this opinion that the men implicated in any verdict which might be returned could not be brought before an English court of justice, and advised the jury to find an open verdict, which was done. The Glasgow police have received information of a murder, said to have been committed at sea, by a Captain Kember, of the ship John Ryle. A quarrel had arisen among the crew, and one of the men resisted, when his officers tried to put him in irons. The captain at once drew a revolver, and shot him dead.

SCUTTLED A VESSEL.—Thomas Kavanagh, master and owner of the schooner Ruby, has been committed for trial at the next Devon county assizes on a charge of scuttling the vessel with a view to defraud the underwriters of the insurance. The vessel was laden with copper ore and butter, and was scuttled by the boring of holes, and abandoned off Plymouth, but subsequently brought in by a pilot. The insurance was effected in Ireland.



KIAKHTA, A SIBERIAN TOWN ON THE FRONTIERS OF CHINA.

KIAKHTA.

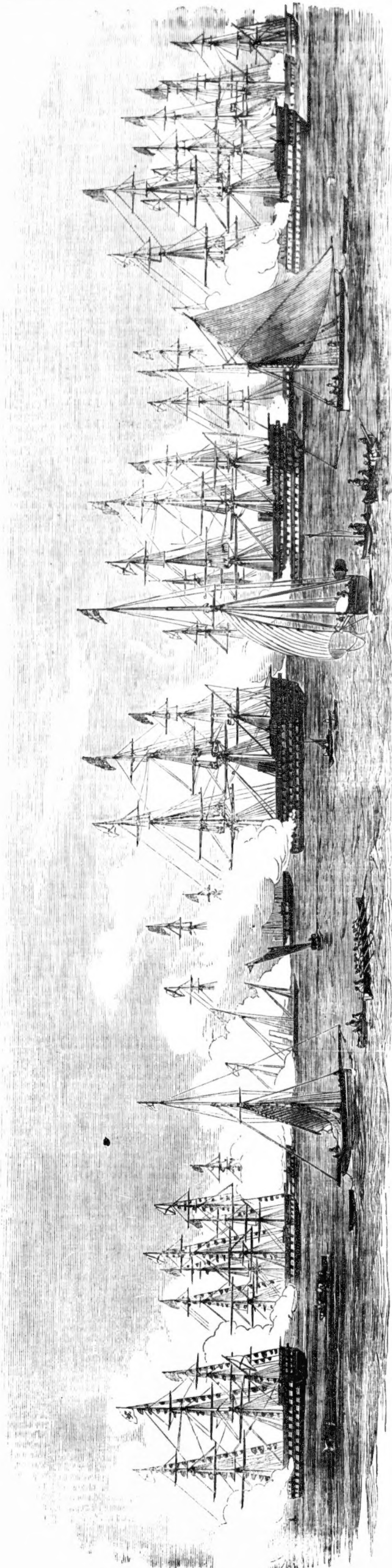
On all the Powers who have attempted to establish mercantile relations with China, Russia appears to have been received most amicably, and to have attained her ends the most easily. For many years there has been a Russian mission established at Peking, while we have only just obtained authority to send a representative to the Celestial Court. Even now there seems to be some doubt as to the manner in which our Ambassador will be received, the Commissioners who signed the treaty on behalf of the Imperial master having done all in their power to delay his journey to the Chinese metropolis.

For many years there has been open between Peking and St. Petersburg a regular line of communication, which has the great advantage of being an overland one, passing by way of Tartary and Siberia. Through the courtesy of M. Dombrowski we are enabled to give the accompanying engraving of Kiakhta, the last Russian station on this postal route.

Kiakhta owes its existence to the treaty of commerce which was ratified between the two countries as far back as the reign of Catherine the Great, by whom this frontier town was founded in 1726. Its population, which is partially Russian and partially Chinese, soon numbered three thousand, and for a time remained almost stationary: it is only within the last year that there has been any considerable increase. The returns now give six thousand, exclusive of its garrison, and the numerous strangers incessantly passing and repassing for the purposes of commerce. It bids fair to gain rapidly in importance, as each day the commercial relations between Russia and China take a wider extension, and Kiakhta will soon rival Izkoutsk, the capital of the province in which it is situated.

THE GREAT EASTERN.—We are informed that the Great Eastern will start from the Thames on her trial-trip on Monday next, the 22nd instant. Instead of going out into the Atlantic, as originally intended, she will proceed first to Cherbourg, next to Portland, and then to various other parts of our own coasts.

RIFLE VOLUNTEER PRACTICE.—Major-General Hay reports most satisfactorily on the practice made by volunteers at the Musketry School at Hythe:—"Proficiency in the several practices being always measured by a figure, I am enabled to draw a comparison of the shooting of these volunteers with that of parties of officers (averaging from 40 to 45) in the last three courses. The result is in favour of the volunteers—the highest figure of the former being 46.94, of the latter 47.07 points. I have confined the comparison to the shooting of the officers, as, from their superior intelligence, they always (when subjected to the same amount of preliminary drill) beat the men. When it is considered that these volunteers were composed of noblemen and gentlemen, most of whom had never fired with a rifle before, and not any at a longer distance than 200 or 300 yards, and when the short period of six days allotted to the performance of the preliminary drills is taken into account, it not only affords the most convincing proof of the energy and intelligence brought to bear on the work in which these volunteers were engaged, but at the same time it points clearly to the great benefit the country will derive from enlisting the services of the educated classes of the population in the movement which is now in progress for the enrolment of volunteers for rifle companies and corps. I do not hesitate to say that, if the training of these volunteers is regulated by a well-detailed system which will ensure a preliminary preparation before practice is allowed to take place, in a few years a most important reserve (comprising, as it will, a class of persons who never enter the regular army or militia, but who, from their education and intelligence, are amply qualified to make the very best 'marksmen'), will be at all times available, and afford a most valuable and permanent addition to our national defences."



THE "SWETLAND," WITH THE GRAND DUKE CONSTANTINE ON BOARD, PASSING THROUGH THE FLEET AT SPITHEAD.

PRESENTATION TO THE COUNTESS OF
SHAFTESBURY OF A BUST OF
HER HUSBAND.

ON the evening of last Saturday week about 4000 persons assembled in the Free-trade Hall at Manchester, to witness the presentation to the Countess of Shaftesbury of an address and a fine marble bust of the noble Earl her husband, as testimonials of the gratitude of factory operatives for his Lordship's powerful advocacy of the Ten Hours Act.

Mr. Jones, a factory-worker, presided. He said he rejoiced, in common with thousands of others, that they could speak from actual experience of the benefits of their past labours in the cause of short-time working. He believed very few employers would like to return to the long-hour system, and that no spirit of hostility was kept up between masters and men on this important question. Their interests were, in fact, identical; the operatives envied not their employers' wealth; they asked for "labour's toil, sweet competence," and nothing more. Such evils as remained they hoped to remedy without appeals to Parliament; but, if need were, the factory-workers would be as prepared as ever they were to enter the field, relying that their noble champion would again lead them on to victory.

The address was then read and presented to the Countess by four young workwomen, after which the bust was uncovered, amid protracted cheering. The reply of the Countess of Shaftesbury, which was given in a voice tremulous from emotion, was printed in our last impression; but that of the Earl, who added his thanks to those of the Countess, could not appear for want of space. He said:—"Their testimonials were, indeed, more due to his wife than to himself; for he must tell them that in the year 1833, when the matter was propounded to him, he had great doubts, not of the justice of the cause, but of his own competency to undertake it. He sought counsel on the right hand and the left, but he left the issue to the decision of his wife, and she, without a moment's hesitation, said, 'Go forward, and to victory!' Drawing a moral from this anecdote, let the men of Lancashire and Yorkshire submit a little more to the counsel of their wives; for, if he knew anything of the character of Lancashire and Yorkshire women, they would give good advice to their husbands and keep their houses in order. They could not reflect without the deepest gratitude on the contrast between the present state of things and what it was before this movement was instituted. Many of those present could recollect very well the long and tedious hours inflicted upon children of tender years, the utter impossibility that any of those wretched children could receive the slightest education or moral training at home or in school; that they were fading away, drooping into an early grave, and looking when they issued from the mills more like walking spectres than, as they ought to be, rosy and joyful, full of the prospect of future life. In achieving so great an improvement for themselves in the last twenty-two years he rejoiced to know that they had observed and secured the rights of others; they had not trenched on the rights or privileges of capitalists, and they had displayed throughout a wisdom, a forbearance, a self-control well worthy the imitation of all classes of operatives. They knew the real secret of their strength, which was the justice of their cause; they determined to persevere, and under God's blessing they relied on their continuous appeal to public opinion in this free country, where they enjoyed free discussion, and where there was a free press, which, though it might now and then say unpleasant things and bring down a man's conceit a little, was nevertheless an honest, feeling, and patriotic press, always alive to the interests and welfare of the people. He admitted the principle of combination among free men, but the danger of a strike was that, under the influence of the passions of human nature, those who dissented from a movement were compelled to join it by direct coercion, or by having their lives rendered thoroughly uncomfortable in the society which surrounded them. He believed that the delay which had taken place in the triumph of the short-time movement had done good to those engaged in it by giving them self-control, judgment, and experience. Having obtained such great advantages, it behoved them to set an example in their lives, and thus prove the national benefit of their success. He did not ask them to become what were called

'total abstinents,' but to be temperate, and to mark the ruin of mind and body, the ruin of soul among so many thousands in this country, arising from the accursed addiction to drinking and intoxication; and he asked them to show what Englishmen could and would be, to reconcile their employers to the mighty change in the legislation affecting them. It would be most ungrateful on this occasion not to mention the names of their friends who had contributed to the blessed issue which they were celebrating. Nathaniel Gould, Sadler, and Fielden were gone from among us; but Wood, and Walker, and Bull, and Oastler, were still alive to enjoy the fruits of their disinterested labours. In concluding, he would remind them that, having received this great boon for themselves, they could not be indifferent to the condition of others who stood in need of a similar benefit. The end they had obtained ought, indeed, to be the beginning of an effort to impart to others those blessings which they enjoyed. At this

moment, to the disgrace of England be it said, there were tens of thousands of children of tender years in toil as protracted, in suffering as severe, in ignorance and disease as great as was that of the factory workers of old. Let them join with him in endeavouring to remedy this great evil. Let them do everything in their power to draw attention to a condition of things so frightful, and that could not fail, if unchecked, most materially to affect the honour, the interests, the prosperity, and the safety of the whole empire. Hundreds of thousands were growing up in the most brutal ignorance, while we were talking of extending the suffrage. Well and good; but for God's sake let education go along with electoral reform by equal steps, and let us not deprive children of tender years of the possibility of training them to their duties to God, and to the citizenship they were to possess."

ZOUAVES RECONNOITRING.

THERE is something so amazingly picturesque about the Zouaves that artists will draw them in preference to other troops; and for somewhat of the same reason, we suppose, we publish engravings of them. It does not matter how, or where, or when you see a Zouave—he is sure to arrest the attention by some peculiarity which distinguishes him from the rest of the army. In the first place, the costume has a great deal to do with it. Supposing we were to dress one of our Indian regiments in the Sikh fashion, and then bring them to England, after years of hard service; is it not likely that their prestige, combined with the unusual garb they wore, would make them exceedingly popular? Thus it is with the Zouaves. They were brought from Algeria when well bronzed by an African sun, and suddenly let loose on the streets of Paris, in their Arab uniforms, to be gazed at by their admiring and wondering countrymen and countrywomen. Soldiers of the Line, who had hitherto had it all their own way amongst the *bonnes* in the Tuileries gardens, were now looked down upon contemptuously. Jeanette from Picardy, and Jeanine from Brittany, would not be satisfied with the admiration of any soldier but a Zouave. This kind of feeling soon manifested itself amongst all classes: the heroes in the turbans and baggy breeches were sought after and made much of by every one, until they were petted into a notion that there was no other corps equal to them in the French army. This is not an unfavourable feeling for a body of troops to entertain, since it stimulates them to do great things to keep up the prestige of their regiment; and it also makes the other corps try to emulate them.

We all know the fame the Zouaves have earned for themselves lately, and we believe that their esprit de corps has made them the dashing fellows they evidently appear to be. But "all is not gold that glitters," and, if the gentlemen we are writing of have their good qualities as soldiers, they have certain others, not considered irreproachable in citizens. We mean that the Zouave has a habit of appropriating to his own wants what legitimately belongs to others; but then the transfer is made so openly, and with such an air of *bon humour* (what we should style in our police sheet "impudent robbery"), that people shrug their shoulders, and simply say, "Comme ils sont drôles, ces Zouaves."

Our illustration shows a party of Zouaves reconnoitring in front of the enemy, a service they are particularly adapted for. Look at the catlike fashion in which they creep along beneath the embankment, while the one in front makes a dash across a piece of open to another shelter, where he will be followed in detail by the rest. Their movements are so quick and stealthy that there are nine chances out of ten that not one of them will be hit. However, the Zouaves have now got rivals that bid fair to eclipse them with their changeable countrymen—we mean the Turcos, who have been brought for the first time to France to swell the triumph of Napoleon. Let the Zouaves look well to their laurels, or the bonafide African will extinguish the pipe of the "make-believe."

THE *Opinion* of Turin of the 11th states that the National Guard of Turin had intended to offer the French officers a banquet on the 15th, but that the latter have been unable to accept the compliment in consequence of orders to that effect from Paris.



ZOUAVES RECONNOITRING.

IRELAND.

OUTRAGE IN WESTMEATH.—Thomas Scully, caretaker over the bog of Culnamier, Westmeath, summoned to the Kilbeggan petty sessions five men, of the families of Ryan and Grehan, for having trespassed on his master's property, and taken therefrom bog manure. The offenders were fined. On the evening of the same day Scully and his brother Michael were peacefully returning to their homes when they were overtaken by the delinquents, who beat them with bludgeons and stones, so as to put their lives in imminent danger. This outrage was perpetrated within a few yards of the spot where Jessop was so foully murdered; and the Scullys would, in all probability, have experienced a like fate, had not the wife of one of their assailants intimated the approach of some police. Her alarm caused the ruffians to fly (across the very fields which, it is said, Jessop's murderers passed in their retreat), leaving their victims almost lifeless. The principal offenders have as yet evaded justice.

THE CATHOLIC SYNOD.—It is stated in the Dublin papers that the resolutions of the assembled Roman Catholic Bishops—resolutions hostile, it is understood, to the National Education system and to the Queen's Colleges—are to be transmitted to the Chief Secretary for Ireland; and that until Mr. Cardwell's reply is received the public will be kept in ignorance of the complete results of the four days' episcopal deliberations. As one of the latest ultramontane objections against the National system of education in Ireland, the *Nation* complains that the pupils are taught to describe themselves as "English" children! "The schools which taught each Irish youth to bless God for making him 'a happy English child' would soon achieve that millennium of British history, Ireland denationalised!"

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.—A coroner's inquest was held on Friday at the county prison of Galway, on the body of Major Donnelly, who was arrested on the 19th of October, 1857, under a warrant of the Court of Chancery, arising out of the suit of "Peel v. Birmingham." Deceased was at the time of his arrest over eighty years of age. He was (says the *Indicator*) in a feeble state when he entered the prison, and shortly after his intellect became greatly impaired. He was connected with some of the first families in the county, was once very rich, and was for many years a magistrate of the county of Kildare. The jury returned the following verdict:—"That the deceased died on the 10th of August, 1859, from natural causes and general debility, hastened by a cruel and heartless incarceration, under an attachment from the Court of Chancery; and we beg to direct the attention of the authorities to the law of imprisonment for debt, with a view to its amendment."

THE ALLEGED KIDNAPING CASE.—The case of Ellen Magee, in which a writ of habeas corpus was issued, directing the Rev. Hugh Hanna to produce Ellen Magee before the Chief Justice, came before the Dublin Court of Queen's Bench on Thursday week. After hearing both parties his Lordship said the order he would make in the case was this:—"He would deliver the child up to her mother, and, as it was admitted that she would be of age on the 23rd of this month—that was, that she would be fourteen years of age—when her guardianship for nurture ceased, he would add this condition to the order—that the mother should undertake to produce her daughter before him at one o'clock on the 23rd instant, that she might be allowed to choose for herself as to where she would desire to go, whether to her mother or otherwise. Mrs. Magee and her daughter were then brought before his Lordship, who communicated his decision to the mother, and took her undertaking to produce her daughter before him on the 23rd instant."

SCOTLAND.

AGITATION IN THE FREE CHURCH.—A correspondent writes:—"The Rev. Mr. Macmillan, of Cardross, was arraigned before the General Assembly of the Free Church last year on the charge of scandalising his congregation by acts of immorality and drunkenness. He pleaded in his defence, first, that the charges were not true; and secondly, that the whole case had not been regularly transmitted to the Assembly of the local Presbytery, and so was not competently, according to church law, before them. The Assembly decided against him on both points, and accordingly pronounced a sentence of suspension for a certain time. Mr. Macmillan, however, strong in his conviction, at least as to the plea of irregularity, resolved, to the horror of all Free Churchmen, to appeal to the civil court against the ecclesiastical sentence on the ground that it was irregular and unconstitutional. The vengeance of the insulted Church was summary and severe. Mr. Macmillan was summoned to appear 'at twelve o'clock on Tuesday next' at the bar of the Assembly. On his appearance the Moderator put to him this question, 'Did you or did you not bring such an action against this Assembly in the Court of Session?' And, immediately on his answering the affirmative, the Assembly proceeded, in solemn Scotch form, to depose him from the office of the holy ministry, and blot out his name from the roll of the pastors of the Free Church. Whereupon Mr. Macmillan brings another action in the law courts against his Church, in which he asks both for damages on account of the loss of his character and salary, and also that the sentence of the Free Church should be reversed, and that he should be reinstated as minister of his former charge. The Free Church appears in the Court of Session, but only to plead that, whether it was right or wrong in its proceedings, these proceedings were ecclesiastical in their character, and cannot be submitted to the review of a civil court; that this is notoriously the principle on which the Free Church is founded, and to which Mr. Macmillan had himself vowed obedience; and that, therefore, the adjudication of such a matter by the Court would be an infringement of the toleration granted to British Dissenting Churches. 'The Court of Session,' says Dr. Buchanan, 'can no more restore Mr. Macmillan to the office and functions of the Christian ministry, or give him the spiritual charge of a congregation, than it could make him King of the British Isles.' And it is frankly intimated that, in case the Court should resolve (following the precedent adopted before the disruption) to command the Free Church to reinstate their contumacious minister, such order must be met with an absolute refusal."

THE PROVINCES.

DESTRUCTION OF WALTON BRIDGE.—On Thursday week the bridge leading from Walton to Hailford, Middlesex, was observed to be cracking across the centre arch. The rupture increased, till at length the arch fell with a violent crash into the bed of the river. Shortly afterwards another arch fell in with the same violence. The bridge was built in 1750.

STRIKE AT PADIHAM.—The clothworkers of Padiham are on strike, and not without reason, it appears. The Rev. E. A. Verity, as an inhabitant of the locality, and a benefited clergyman whose parish includes a portion of the town of Padiham, makes the following statements on behalf of the operatives:—"1. There are four genuine manufacturers at Padiham who are paying the rate of wages claimed by the operatives on strike. They are making the same description of cloth, and upon the same kind of looms, as the seven masters who obstinately refuse to give this measure of justice to their workmen. These mills are running. 2. The reason why the Burnley and Padiham masters have enrolled themselves in a union is to keep down wages in their respective localities. These localities are the worst paid districts in Lancashire, an operative earning on the average about seven shillings a week. 3. The mill hands are in a state of serfdom to their employers, and if any spirited operative protests he is instantly dismissed, with all the members of his family and kindred, and, by a refined species of cruelty, denied employment by the masters to whom he applies for work, being a 'marked man.' 4. The system of fines and abatements in the mills of Padiham, Colne, and Burnley, with a few honourable exceptions, is so oppressive and unjust, that a good workman's wages are oftentimes reduced 35 per cent, by being compelled to repair defective machinery, replace shuttle-pegs, cuts, cops, brushes, glass, &c. 5. The tyranny and dictation are chiefly on the part of the masters. The operatives have been goaded, without success, to commit acts of violence; but, although now on strike for twenty-one weeks, their attitude is admirable, and their conduct firm, but respectful and peaceable."

EXPLOSION OF FREDAMP.—On Saturday morning two of the miners at the Tredegar works went to work, carrying with them a naked candle. The exposed light came in contact with inflammable gas, and an alarming explosion took place, by which both the men were dreadfully burnt. It is hoped that their lives may be spared.

ELECTIONEERING TACTICS.—There were two trials at Gloucester Assizes on Monday relative to the late election at Cheltenham. In one case, William Clarke was charged with having forcibly prevented Admiral Talbot from voting for the Conservative candidates; and Jermyn Colbourn, Lavinia Colbourn, and Wallis Mullins were charged with having hounded John Kibbierwhite, and prevented him from voting on the Liberal side. The Admiral had come all the way from Cork to record his vote. He arrived only a few minutes before the close of the poll, and was preparing to leave the station for the hustings when his fly was stopped. Admiral Talbot stated in his evidence—"There was a great crowd and a rush, and I was knocked down by falling over another person. When I got up I was embraced by the defendant, who said, 'I'll take care of the admiral.' I desired him to let me loose, but he kept on pressing me back to the great gates. That went on for several minutes. While this was going on the rest of the people were inside the gates. Finding I could not clear myself from my friend Mr. Clarke's arms, I voluntarily walked to the station, the defendant following me. When in the station some one called my attention to the station clock, which showed the time to be after four o'clock. In consequence of this treatment I was restrained from voting. I did not go the poll." The defendant was found guilty, but was discharged on his own recognisances. In the other case, in which the voter, who is an old man, had had laudanum given him in his drink, the female defendant was acquitted, and the two others were each sentenced to be imprisoned for a month.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 113.

A BILL LOST.

On the paper for several weeks before the prorogation of Parliament there appeared the "order" "Attorneys and Solicitors Bill." What it meant few in the House knew, and few cared to know, and yet around this order clustered the hopes of some thousands of people scattered through the country, for, as we have learned from inquiry, it was the title of a bill for giving solicitors' clerks of long standing greater facilities than they now possess to enter the sacred precincts of the profession. At present, every one who wishes to become an attorney or solicitor must be articled for five years, and this bill was to shorten this term to three years in the cases of clerks who have been such for fifteen years. The bill originated in the Lords, where it passed through all its stages, with little description, and then came down to the Commons and went through the first and second reading and Committee with but little more; but at the third and last stage it hung fire, not on account of any formidable opposition, but rather through neglect. Well, on Thursday it stood as usual for third reading; and, as the opposition was apparently not very earnest, it was thought that it would pass that night almost as a matter of course, and, as the bill was deemed perfectly safe, there was no small joy amongst the lawyers' clerks, who hoped to take advantage of its provisions. But it was not to be so. The friends of the bill considered it safe, and failed to watch it further, but the opponents of the measure were on the alert, and at the last hour defeated it. The bill was called on early in the evening, and was just about to pass, when Mr. Wynne Knight arose quietly and opposed it. The opposition, however, would probably have been fruitless but for one little circumstance which the promoters of the measure had quite left out of their calculations. There were not the requisite forty members present when the third reading came on, and another opponent, seeing how the land lay, quietly got up and noticed the fact, whereupon the members were counted, the House adjourned, and the bill was lost. It became "a dropped order," and, as this was the last day but one of the Session, it was too late to have it renewed. Indeed, it is a question whether it could be renewed, for we rather think that, if the House is counted out during a debate on a bill, the said bill is entirely lost for the Session. It must have been a vexing thing to the large class whom this bill affected to see by the morning paper that their bill was thus strangled; but there was no help for it: its fate was as irrevocable as doom.

A WORD OF ADVICE.

And here let us, before we close these articles for the vacation, tender those gentlemen and all others who wish to pass bills through the House a word of advice. If the bill you wish to have passed be a Government measure, you need not concern yourself about it, for the member of the Government who has charge of the bill will be sure to keep his eye upon it; but if it be not a Government bill there is but one course for you to pursue, and that is always to have a sentinel in the lobby of the House to watch the progress of your measure; and for this reason: when a bill is called on, if the member who has charge of it do not answer, the "order" is dropped, and the bill is put at the bottom of the list. And what this means none but those who are intimately acquainted with Parliamentary proceedings can tell. On the face of it it seems to mean only a day's delay, but in practice it means much more; for on the order-paper there may be thirty, forty, or fifty bills. We have seen more than seventy—and, considering that all Government bills, which always constitute the majority, have precedence, it is obvious that to place a bill which is not a Government bill at the bottom of a long list means in reality delay indefinite, and a great risk of not passing the measure at all. So, gentlemen, if you have a bill before the House, consider it a *sine qua non* that you have a sentinel on the spot to watch it. And do not have a timid, nervous man, but a busy, quick, and somewhat impudent fellow, for, you may depend upon it, these three qualities will all be wanted. For instance, if the sentinel sees the member who has charge of the bill about to leave, he must be instantly taken by the arm and persuaded back to his post, unless he has appointed a deputy. And no excuse must be listened to. Your member will probably tell you that the debate going on will last for hours, and that, after then, there are many bills to be taken before yours; but on no account must you give way; for the debate, contrary to all expectation, may cease at any moment, and the other bills may run off rapidly. We once knew an instance in point:—An honourable member had charge of a bill. It was low down on the paper, and an apparently long debate was on, and so he thought he might safely go away for an hour. Well, he went, and in an hour he came back and found, to his great dismay, that the House was up. The fact was this: the debate suddenly closed about dinner-time; the orders of the day were called, but, as nobody expected them to come on so early, no one was present to answer, and the House adjourned. No; if you wish to run a bill through the House you must always be on the watch. All old stagers know this. It is tedious, tiresome work we know to pace the lobby hour after hour, and night after night, but it must be done, and generally it is done. This Session there have been men in the lobby watching for bills seven and eight hours at a stretch, and for many nights. One man whom we know has been almost as constant in attendance as the doorkeepers. That Attorneys and Solicitors Bill ought to have passed a week ago; and it would have passed had not its friends relaxed at its last stage, consequently it was postponed from time to time, and at last counted out. Now it is obvious that no timid spooney will do as a sentinel; no man who is afraid to speak to a member of Parliament. Some sharp, quick-witted lawyer connected with the borough which the member represents is the sort of man. The lobby is occasionally filled with these gentlemen, and their faces are as well known there as the faces of the policemen. Many a time have we seen a member slinking away brought suddenly up by one of these "agents," and forced back. It is this which makes the representation of large boroughs, especially metropolitan boroughs, so onerous and laborious to work. There is always somebody in a metropolitan borough who has a bill before the House, and there is scarcely a night on which sentinels are not on the watch to keep their members up to their work. But we must pass on to

THE CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

The Session has ended with a remarkable and almost unprecedented vigour. Usually a Parliamentary Session dies out like a man in a consumption, or like a candle flickering on the socket; but this year there was a rare energy in the House to the last. Much of this was owing to the amount of business which had to be crammed into the short Session. It is scarcely two months since the present Government came in, and at that time not an Estimate had been gone through. The preceding Government had taken money on account; but no Estimates had been voted in detail. All these, therefore, had to be voted; a host of bills had to be passed; Election Committees had to be struck, and to proceed with their work; foreign affairs, Indian finance, &c., had to be overhauled. And, besides all this, not a few episodes of an exciting character arose. No wonder, therefore, Parliament was fully employed up to the last. At one time we were fearful that we should sit on to the end of August, for it seemed impossible that we should ever be able to get all the supplies before. But, what with morning sittings, and the characteristic energy of Lord Palmerston (who is famous for making his people work), we have got through. That was a welcome cheer which rang through the House when the last vote in supply was taken, for then we knew that our liberation was at hand. True, there was still a vast amount of business on the paper, but the practised eye saw at once that there was nothing there to keep us. If all these bills could be passed, well; but, if not, they must drop, for it is rarely found that any but the most important measures keep us a day longer after the money is got than the time that is necessary to run the "Appropriation Bill" through. That being done, the day for prorogation is at once fixed, and when fixed it is seldom postponed. This bill was read a second time about ten days ago. After that the order-paper was rapidly cleared: some of

the bills were passed; some were dropped. On Friday there was only one solitary bill left, and on Saturday morning we had a clear paper. On that day we met at half-past twelve to discuss the Pontefract matter, which being settled, Mr. Speaker retired to his room, having nothing to do for half-an-hour. But at 2.30 the folding-doors of the Upper House were thrown open, the welcome sight of Sir Augustus Clifford, dressed in full costume, marching down, the corridor, met our eyes, and in less than half-an-hour Speaker, Serjeant-at-Arms, Clerk, Mace, members, and all that constitutes the British House of Commons, had vanished from the scene.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act Amendment Bill was read a second time.

The Appropriation Bill, the India Loan Bill, the Reserve Volunteer Force of Seamen Bill, and other last measures of the Session, were read a third time and passed. The Commons' amendments in the Divorce Court Bill were considered and agreed to.

Their Lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BRIBERY AT ELECTIONS.

Mr. E. JAMES gave notice, for next Session, of a resolution ordering returns of evidence from the Election Committees to be laid regularly before the House, and declaring that the Attorney-General should be instructed to prosecute all persons who appeared to have been guilty of bribery.

Several other notices were given for the ensuing Session.

Mr. E. JAMES moved an address to the Crown praying that a Royal Commission might be issued to inquire into the charges of bribery and corruption committed at the late election for the city of Gloucester.

The motion was seconded by Mr. TITE.

After a few words from Mr. P. O'BRIEN, Mr. MELLOR opposed the motion, contending that these Election Commissions were costly and useless.

Mr. HADFIELD also opposed the motion.

Mr. MALINS argued that it would be more just to punish the bribers by a Crown prosecution rather than visit the offence upon the poor electors, who yielded to their temptations.

After some further discussion the House divided—For the resolution, 59; against, 21: majority, 38.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

Mr. CAMPBELL moved the following resolution:—"That the House feels bound before the Session closes to express the deep respect it entertains for the firm and honourable manner in which the Government of Portugal has acted in its treaties with Great Britain in restraining negro exportation from the eastern coast of Africa in 1857 and 1858; that this House fully recognises the zeal with which the Emperor of the French has resolved to check the slave trade in every part of his dominions."

Mr. BAXTER seconded the motion, which was, however, withdrawn after a brief conversation.

Mr. FULLER was proceeding to explain the purport of a motion he had placed on the paper respecting Assistant-Surgeons in the army, when the House was counted out.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

As all the legislative work in the House of Lords was wound up at the sitting on the previous day, nothing remained to be done but the execution of the Royal Commissions for declaring the assent of the Crown to certain bills, and for proroguing the Parliament, and the only matter that occurred, previous to the reading of the two commissions, was the presentation by the Lord Chancellor of some petitions, one being very numerous signed by women, against the legalisation of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, in the prayer of which petitions the noble and learned Lord expressed his concurrence.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE TREATY WITH CHINA.

In reply to Mr. Gregson, Lord J. RUSSELL said it was the intention of her Majesty's Government to require the Emperor of China to carry out the treaty, and to invite him to send an Ambassador to the British Court.

ITALIAN AFFAIRS.

In answer to Mr. Griffith, Lord J. RUSSELL stated that he had not received any official information which altered the character of the statement he had already made with respect to the intentions of France and Austria regarding the Duchies of Parma, Modena, and Tuscany.

RIFLE CORPS.

Lord ELCHO, in moving for reports relative to the Musketry School at Hythe, inquired whether the Government regarded the formation of rifle and artillery volunteer corps as a permanent element of our national defences, and were really anxious that such a force should be established?

Mr. S. HERBERT and Lord PALMERSTON concurred in expressing the desire of the Government to give encouragement to the formation of these corps.

Mr. TITE obtained leave to bring in a bill further to amend the Act 18 and 19 Victoria, cap. 120, for the better local management of the metropolis; and Mr. HUNTER moved a bill to amend the law regarding Roman Catholic charitable trusts.

The House was then summoned to the House of Peers, where the Lord Chancellor read the Royal Speech dissolving the Session.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

We are commanded by her Majesty to release you from further attendance in Parliament, and at the same time to convey to you her Majesty's acknowledgments for the zeal and assiduity with which you have applied yourselves to the performance of your duties during the Session of Parliament now about to close.

Various circumstances which occasioned interruptions in the usual course of business prevented the completion of important matters which her Majesty pointed out to the attention of her Parliament in the beginning of the present year; but her Majesty trusts that those matters will be taken into your earnest consideration at an early period of the next Session.

The war which has broken out in Northern Italy having been brought to a close by the peace of Villafranca, various overtures have been made to her Majesty with a view to ascertain whether, if conferences should be held by the great Powers of Europe for the purpose of settling arrangements connected with the present state and future condition of Italy, a plenipotentiary would be sent by her Majesty to assist at such conferences; but her Majesty has not yet received the information necessary to enable her Majesty to decide whether she may think fit to take part in any such negotiations. Her Majesty would rejoice to find herself able to contribute to the establishment of arrangements calculated to place the general peace on a satisfactory and lasting foundation.

Her Majesty, in accordance with the stipulations of the treaty of Tientsin, has instructed her Plenipotentiary in China to repair to the Imperial Court at Peking; and her Majesty trusts that such direct communication with the Imperial Government will have a beneficial effect upon the relations between the two countries.

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that she looks forward with confidence to the continued maintenance of those friendly relations which so happily subsist between her Majesty and all foreign Powers and States.

Her Majesty is glad to be able to congratulate you on the complete restoration of tranquillity in her Indian dominions. It will be her earnest endeavour to promote their internal improvement, and to obliterate the traces of those conflicts which her Majesty witnessed with such deep concern.

The financial arrangements of that portion of her Majesty's empire will continue to engage her Majesty's serious attention.

Her Majesty has had much satisfaction in giving her assent to the bills which you presented to her for the formation of a naval and military reserve force. A complete and permanent system of national defence must at all times be an object of paramount importance.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Her Majesty commands us to convey to you her cordial thanks for the

readiness and zeal with which you have provided the necessary supplies for the service of the year.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Her Majesty commands us to express her heartfelt gratification at witnessing the general well-being and contentment which prevail throughout her dominions. The happiness of her Majesty's people is the object dearest to her heart.

In returning to your respective counties you will have duties to perform intimately connected with the attainment of this great end, and her Majesty fervently prays that the blessing of Almighty God may attend your exertions in the performance of those duties for the common good of all classes of her Majesty's subjects.

The Lord Chancellor then declared Parliament to be prorogued until the 27th of October; and, in the Speaker and members of the House of Commons having withdrawn, the proceedings terminated.

In this year (1859) the following Acts have been passed:—First Session (21 Victoria), public general Acts, 35; local Acts, 35; private Acts, 1; total, 71. Second Session (22 and 23 Victoria), public general Acts, 66; local Acts, 139; private Acts, 7; total, 212; grand total, 283.

MR. COBDEN, M.P., AT ROCHDALE.

The return of Mr. Cobden as M.P. for Rochdale was celebrated by the electors of the borough on Wednesday evening by a banquet, at which upwards of two thousand persons were present. The proceedings took place in a tent erected for the occasion on the outskirts of the town. The chair was taken by the Mayor, and among the gentlemen on the platform were Mr. Bright, Mr. Hadfield, Mr. Frank Crossley, Mr. Titus Salt, Mr. E. A. Leatham, Mr. Thomas Bazley, Mr. Sharman Crawford, Mr. George Wilson, &c.

After a few introductory remarks from the chairman, a resolution was passed welcoming Mr. Cobden as the representative of Rochdale, and expressing high gratification at his return to Parliament.

Mr. Cobden then rose, and was received with deafening acclamations. He said he had coveted the honour of representing the borough of Rochdale beyond all other constituencies in the empire, and he thanked them heartily for electing him as their member at a time when he was nearly 4000 miles away from England. It was, moreover, a still greater honour when he considered the corruption that existed at the last election; and, although the number of election petitions had been very great, he believed it by no means represented the number of corrupt constituencies. He ventured to assert that the House of Commons was not very desirous of putting down these evil practices, or it might be easily arranged. They must enable an inquiry to be made at a much less cost, and they must pass a law which would make an act of bribery or corruption a criminal proceeding. "Formerly," said Mr. Cobden, "the system of corruption and undue influence in our constituencies was confined very much to a privileged class in this country. One noble family contested a county against another noble family, and they spent £100,000 a piece. And all the world knew that it was agreed that they should resort to the same habit of expenditure, and it was considered, in fact, a legitimate exercise of their wealth and their power. In the same way, if a contest took place in a borough, it was some leading landed proprietor, or some influential family of the neighbourhood, who contested with another individual having the same pretensions as himself; and they fought the election of some borough amid fourteen or twenty days of saturnalia, extravagance, and corruption. There, again, it was considered so much a matter of course, and it was so ennobled in men's minds by seeing it patronised by the titled and the great, that these things were passed over. But, now, gentlemen, we have another class of aspirants for Parliament altogether. During the last general election, for instance, I have seen a new element in our system of electoral corruption; we have had a number of gentlemen who have come over from Australia, where, I suppose, they have been successful at the diggings, for they have brought over their nuggets and administered them in the shape of £50 notes; they have gone to some little borough and fought their battles and bribed just as their betters did fifty years ago. Now, I have great hopes, when this system is resorted to by parties who have none of the prestige of the nobility, that very likely it will be treated very differently by the people and by Parliament, and that some plan will be resorted to to put it down. I remember that some linen-draper's assistants took it into their heads to go down one Sunday morning to Wormwood Scrubs, or some place where the nobility used to carry on the pastime of duelling, and began to fight duels, and then duelling became very infamous in the eyes of the upper classes. Now, nothing would be so ridiculous as to resent an insult by going out and fighting a duel about it. I am very much in hopes that, since this system of bribery and corruption has fallen into the hands of such as I have described, those gentlemen coming home from the Australian diggings, or from their broad acres and herds, and rushing into local markets, and offering, by the expenditure of £4000 or £5000, to buy the seat of some little dirty borough in the west of England—I have very strong hopes that such a system will not be so fashionable as it has been, and very likely we shall succeed in having those parties prosecuted criminally." But at present the House of Commons was not only insincere in its pretence to put down corruption, but it had another foolish and expensive practice which ought to be put down. He alluded to the system of issuing commissions of inquiry. He had lately voted against the commission to inquire into the practices at Gloucester, and he did this, not because he wished to shield the guilty persons concerned in those practices, but because he believed that such inquiries were utterly futile, were very expensive, and never obtained any good result. The adoption of the ballot would have a most important influence in repressing these electoral excesses, as was proved by the evidence afforded by the example of the United States, where it had long been in active operation. Mr. Randall, an American statesman of reputation, had assured him that in the course of fifty years he had never known a vote in Philadelphia bought or sold. The ballot prevented buying and selling. Nobody would buy a vote when he could never learn whether he had obtained money's worth for the sum expended. Mr. Cobden then turned to the subject of the late war in Italy, congratulating the country on the neutrality which she had been able to maintain. "Public opinion," said he, "has prevented intervention by force of arms, and now let public opinion manifest itself against any intervention by diplomacy, unless it can be in accordance with principles and for objects of which England may be proud and may approve. Do not let us have any more Congresses of Vienna, where we are parties to treaties that partition off Europe, and apportion the people to different rulers just with the same indifference to their wishes and instincts as though they were so many flocks of sheep. If England take any part in the Congress that is to be held by the great Powers on the Continent, her object should be, and the sole condition on which we should go into that Congress should be, that the Italians should be left free to manage their own affairs; that they should be as secure from intervention—that they should enjoy the privilege of non-intervention in the management of their own internal affairs—just as sacredly as any of the great Powers themselves. I know what is the excuse that is made by those great Powers for interfering in the affairs of Italy and the smaller States. They do it under the pretence of preserving order. A hypocritical pretence I have no hesitation in calling it. Do the great Powers preserve order themselves? Have we had perfect order prevailing in the Austrian empire or in the French empire during the last few years? Do they preserve the earth from bloodshed? Have not these two great Powers, during the last six months especially, shed more blood in their mad quarrels than has been shed by all the smaller States in Europe during the last fifty years? And shall those great Powers, for the purpose of interfering, send their armed bands in order to repress the free instincts of the people of Italy? Shall they be allowed to set up the pretence that they want to preserve order and to prevent bloodshed? But I will face the chance of disorder. I will say, if the Italians cannot settle their own affairs without falling into disorder, why should not they be allowed even to carry on a civil or domestic tumult, or even a war itself, without

any other Power venturing to take advantage of that to enter their territory? Why, how did we act in the case of France when she fell almost into a Red Republic ten years ago? Was not our Government most eager to proclaim that, whatever happened in France, we would never interfere with her internal affairs, but leave her free to choose any Government she pleased? What you allow the great Powers allow to the smaller Powers. Why, what would have become of this great nation if, when we were in the cauldron of revolution—if, during the hundred years that elapsed from 1615 or 1650 to 1745, when the last battle was fought in favour of the Stuart dynasty—some great Power on the Continent had planted a large permanent army on our shores, and insisted on taking the power from the hands of the people of redressing their grievances, or rescuing themselves from disorder? Where would have been our maxims of self-government if that century of commotion had been blotted from our annals; if we had had a French army or a Spanish army, or the two united, placed in the city of London to control our operations and dictate to both parties? They might have preserved the peace, but where would have been our liberties?" Mr. Cobden also said, he could state from his own personal knowledge that the Tuscans and the people of the Bolognese Legation, had recently elected the most eminent men in those countries as their representatives. They had sent to their new assemblies men who ranked in Central Italy as high as Lord Derby or Lord Lansdowne in England. Then there was another aspect of the matter. We had a near interest in foreign affairs. The annual budget was prepared rather with reference to our foreign than to our domestic policy. The chief fear which was continually recurring in England was that we were liable to an invasion from France, and the expenditure arising from this unnatural fear was enormous. He ventured to say that the increased armaments, naval and military, of France during the last ten years were quite as much provoked by the additions made to the English armaments as the contrary. The English dread of a French invasion was a laughing-stock of the Americans. They called it the "English craze," and it was impossible to describe the pity and scorn with which the subject was always referred to by the people of the United States. The press was chiefly to blame for this foolish cry, and he advised his audience to distrust the opinion of newspaper-writers. "I don't come here," says he, "to advocate, a principle of defencelessness, but what I do stand up for is this—that which I heard Sir Robert Peel declare in connection with the very question of our finance—that for England to pretend to take precautions, so that every mile of her coast and every mile of the coasts of her colonies shall be safe from aggression, is a hopeless and an erroneous policy. He used, in fact, these words, 'We must be prepared to take some risks, and the wisest statesman is one that will face some risks rather than undertake these ruinous precautions.' Now, that is my principle and my policy with regard to our foreign policy. What would you say if I were to tell you—and I do it as the result of a little calculation—that if you take the amount of money which we annually spend in this country as a means of defence and precaution against all warlike aggressions from France—if you take that sum of money, as I will, at the very lowest possible amount, six millions sterling—and I believe it is nearer twelve millions (Hear, hear)—if you assume that we spend six millions sterling per annum as a means of protecting ourselves against the possible aggressions of France, beyond the ordinary amount of force which we should maintain with reference to the preparations for war in the rest of the world; and if I were to tell you that that sum of money represents far more than the whole of our trade with France—as a consequence, as a political economical maxim, it would be for the benefit of England if France did not exist. And, on the other hand, assuming that the preparations of France were made in the same way and on the same scale with those of England to defend herself against us, then it would be an economical truth that it would be better for France if England were at the bottom of the sea. I ask you one question as a corollary to that. Is a man who calls himself a politician, and does not even aspire to the rank of a statesman, deserving of the name of a Utopist, is he to be considered only as living in dreamland, and to be held incapable of giving counsel to practical men like the English, if he asks whether there is no possible remedy for such a state of things as that?"

Further on in his speech Mr. Cobden pointed out this remedy. "Give me," said he, "five millions of remedy to deal with, instead of voting that money by acclamation, as we do, for this useless and senseless expenditure—give me that money to deal with by reducing the duties on French commodities, and you will do far more to cement the bonds of peace between this kingdom and that, far more than will ever be done by any preparation for war, for France is a country that you cannot terrify by your preparation."

Mr. Cobden then alluded to the offer which was made to him to join the Palmerston Cabinet. He was by no means indifferent to the honour intended him, though he had been unable to accept it. He thought it was his duty to go direct to Lord Palmerston without communicating with any other person, and in the course of the conversation with his Lordship he had referred to his strong convictions on the subject of his (Lord Palmerston's) foreign policy, and suggested that, holding these views, he could scarcely consistently take part in a Cabinet of which his Lordship was the head. "I stated my case thus: I have been for ten or fifteen years the systematic assailant of what I believe to be your foreign policy. I thought it warlike, not calculated to promote peace or harmony between this country and other States. I explained to him precisely what my feelings had been in those words:—I said 'It is quite possible I may have been mistaken in all this. When a man takes an idea up and pursues it for ten or twelve years, very likely his first impression may have been exaggerated.' But I put it to Lord Palmerston, and I put it to you, whether, having recorded those opinions, it was fit and becoming in me to step from an American steamer into his Cabinet, and then for the first time, after having received at his hands a post of high honour and great emolument, to discover I had undergone a change in my opinions, and whether I should not have been open to great misconception by the public at least if I had adopted such a proceeding. Gentlemen, I candidly confess to you that that would have been a course inconsistent with my own self-respect. I don't intend to dwell on that subject, because it would be egotistical on my part. I don't mean to claim to myself any more merit than belongs to me, and I do not wish my abnegation in any way to reflect on those who took a different line. While my own feelings prevented me from taking the step which so many of my friends wished me to take, I am still very glad to find that my friend Mr. Gibson felt himself able to accept office under Lord Palmerston. It is not necessary, I hope, for me to add that I had no personal feeling whatever in the course I took with regard to Lord Palmerston's offer. If I had cherished any personal hostility towards that noble Lord—which I have never done, for he is of that happy nature that he cannot create a personal enemy—his kind and manly offer would at once have disarmed me. I have now only to add that I trust to your kind and indulgent interpretation of the course which I have felt it my duty to pursue."

Mr. Thomas Ashworth and Mr. Jacob Bright seconded the following resolution which was carried unanimously:—

That this meeting, having heard from Mr. Cobden the reasons which induced him to decline the office which was offered him in the present Cabinet, expresses its entire satisfaction with the course he has pursued, and sees in it another proof of the clear judgment and the perfect honour and disinterestedness by which his public life has been distinguished.

Mr. W. Sharman Crawford then moved—

That in the opinion of this meeting the question of Parliamentary Reform presses for immediate settlement; that without reform elections will continue to be corrupt and Parliament will be unfaithful in its trust; that so long as one-sixth only of the adult male population of the Kingdom is entrusted with the franchise, that a small minority, probably not more than one-sixth of the existing electors, return a majority of the members of Parliament; that the election of electors is the rule in counties, and the corruption of them through a profligate expenditure of the money the practice in boroughs, and that a truly liberal and honest Administration is impossible; that this meeting recommends all liberal and free constituencies to support

the present Government through their representatives only on condition that the question of Parliamentary Reform shall be dealt with in an earnest and generous spirit at the opening of the next Session of Parliament.

Mr. F. Crossley, M.P., seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. Leatham and Mr. Bright, who said in the course of his address that, as a voter for the borough of Rochdale, and as the political associate and friend of Mr. Cobden for nearly twenty years, he hoped to be permitted to express his gratification at having Mr. Cobden as his representative in Parliament. Referring to the subject of Parliamentary Reform, he particularly drew attention to the county constituencies, repeating his previous statements as to the servile dependence of the electors on the landholders. Lord J. Russell had sketched a scheme of Reform, he (Mr. Bright) fancied, before the last general election. There were men now in the present Cabinet who were not prepared to go as far on the path of Reform as Lord J. Russell, but he would warn those Ministers, if any such there were, that, if they gave the country a measure short of that scheme, they would cover their Cabinet with a taint which it could never survive.

A NEW RELIGION, BY DR. BELLOWES.

The New York Herald says:—"The failure alike both of the old Catholic religion and the new Protestant sects in these latter days is ever suggesting to the active mind and the philosophic thinker the necessity of a new religion. Mormonism has sprung from this failure, and more recently spiritualism; and now another new religion is proposed—one on a grander and more magnificent scale—a religion which does not seek to get rid of the old, but to build itself up out of the best parts of the dilapidated materials, and to combine all Christian sects into one harmonising whole."

"The Rev. Dr. Bellows, of New York, bids fair for that lofty mission. In a remarkable sermon which he preached a few days ago in Boston he promulgated most bold and startling views on the subject of Christianity and modern Protestantism—views which indicate a high spirit of independence and a tone of courage not easy to be met with in these days of cant, and sham, and hypocrisy. Himself a Protestant clergyman of the Unitarian creed, and therefore, as he expresses it, 'a Protestant of the Protestants,' he candidly admits the failure of his own and of all other Protestant sects, and gives the palm to Romanism for having failed in a less degree as a religion than any other. The Catholic religion, however, has failed too, and the practical conclusion at which Dr. Bellows arrives is 'the development of a new Catholic Church,' and the *modus operandi* is this:—Take the old Catholic Church, with its splendid ritual as the basis, and stripping it of what is obsolete and unsuited to an enlightened age, and getting rid also of some of the most obnoxious doctrines, unite with it the philosophy of Protestantism, and thus build up out of the ruins of both a new system which will become the religion of the old world. This is a grand idea, and if it could only be realised the name of Bellows would shine in the firmament of history above that of Luther, Calvin, Zuingli, Melancthon, Wickliffe, Huss, or any of the great reformers who have appeared on the stage of the world since the dawn of Christianity."

"This new church is not to be controlled by the authority of the Pope or the State, and is to be a purely voluntary organisation, on democratic principles—each congregation to be a free and independent republic, like the churches of the olden time, but united by some principle of cohesion like the States of the American confederation. We are informed that a liturgy is already drawn up for the new religion. But the question is, who is to be the first president? We hardly think Archbishop Hughes would give up his present position—a certainty—for an uncertainty. Besides, we don't know whether the Pope will sanction it. Henry Ward Beecher would doubtless have a large number of backers if he would allow himself to be put in nomination. But, until the new religion grows strong, he is not likely to surrender his 10,000 dollars per annum, and his long summer vacation, and his right to discourse most eloquent politics on the sorrows and sufferings of fat negroes, the present condition and future fate of his coloured brethren. Dr. Bellows himself would make a first-rate president, and, as he has not much to lose, might be tempted to accept the offer. We fear he is too modest to take so commanding a position; but he must be bold, and persevere in audacity. Mahomet was for four years with only nine converts, and yet his religion afterwards overran half the world; and at this day, in despite of the Crusades, in which two millions of lives were lost, the Mahometan religion numbers one hundred millions of believers. Mahomet was a man of great daring and sublime imagination, and, like Dr. Bellows, founded his religion on the corruptions of Christianity, but accommodating himself to both Christians and Jews, by acknowledging as prophets both Moses and Christ, while he claimed for himself a newer and a loftier inspiration. Dr. Bellows hints at some new revelation like this."

A FALL FROM A BALLOON.

A MR. HALL ascended in a balloon from the Cricket-ground, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Monday evening. The ascent took place at ten minutes to seven, and at a quarter past that hour the balloon was seen to descend rapidly into a clover-field in the neighbourhood of Boldon, about seven miles from Newcastle. The grappling-irons, however, did not keep hold of the ground, and, some of the ballast having upset, the balloon suddenly rose again. Mr. Hall was about to alight from the car at the time the balloon rose, his feet were caught in the ropes, and he was whirled suddenly into the air. For a moment he hung with his head downwards, and then he fell a distance, it is computed, of 120 feet. A farmer and his son who were in a field close by came to his assistance, and he was found to be sensible, but he soon after became unconscious, and little hope of his recovery is entertained. After Mr. Hall was thrown out the balloon ascended a great height, and was last seen drifting out to the German Ocean. A little dog belonging to the aeronaut was taken up in the car.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE SPURGEON TABERNACLE.—After the deplorable accident which took place some three years since at the Surrey Gardens Music Hall, Mr. Spurgeon's admirers determined to erect for him a regular "tabernacle" capable of accommodating the vast masses which thronged to listen to his exhortations; and Tuesday witnessed the inception of the work. The building, which is to be erected in the Corinthian style of architecture, will cover a portion of the site formerly occupied by the Fishmongers' Almshouses, near the Elephant and Castle, Southwark. The chapel, in its interior dimensions, will be 145 feet long by 81 feet wide, and from the floor to the ceiling will measure 62 feet. Allowing two square feet to each individual, the floor of the building will afford standing room to upwards of 5800 persons; the architect's calculation, however, is that the body of the chapel and the two galleries which are to run round it will afford good accommodation to 6500. As in all buildings in which large crowds are to assemble, it is desirable that the means of egress should be ample, Mr. Spurgeon's tabernacle is to have nine doors, each six feet wide, communicating with the galleries by eight staircases to each gallery. Sir Samuel Morton Peto, who laid the first stone, enlarged upon many of these points. The ceremony of laying the corner-stone was followed by a public meeting, at which the Lord Mayor presided, and at which about 5000 persons were admitted by ticket. His Lordship, Mr. Spurgeon's father, his brother, and several other members of the Nonconformist body, addressed the assembly; and Mr. Inskip, on behalf of an invalid gentleman at Bristol, handed in a cheque for £3000 towards the building fund, with a promise of £2000 more in the event of twenty other gentlemen subscribing £100 each, or forty subscribing £50 each, within the next three months.

THE MURDER NEAR LEEDS.—The adjourned inquest on the body of Richard Broughton, who was barbarously murdered in a field at Roundhay, a village near Leeds, was held on Wednesday, the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown."

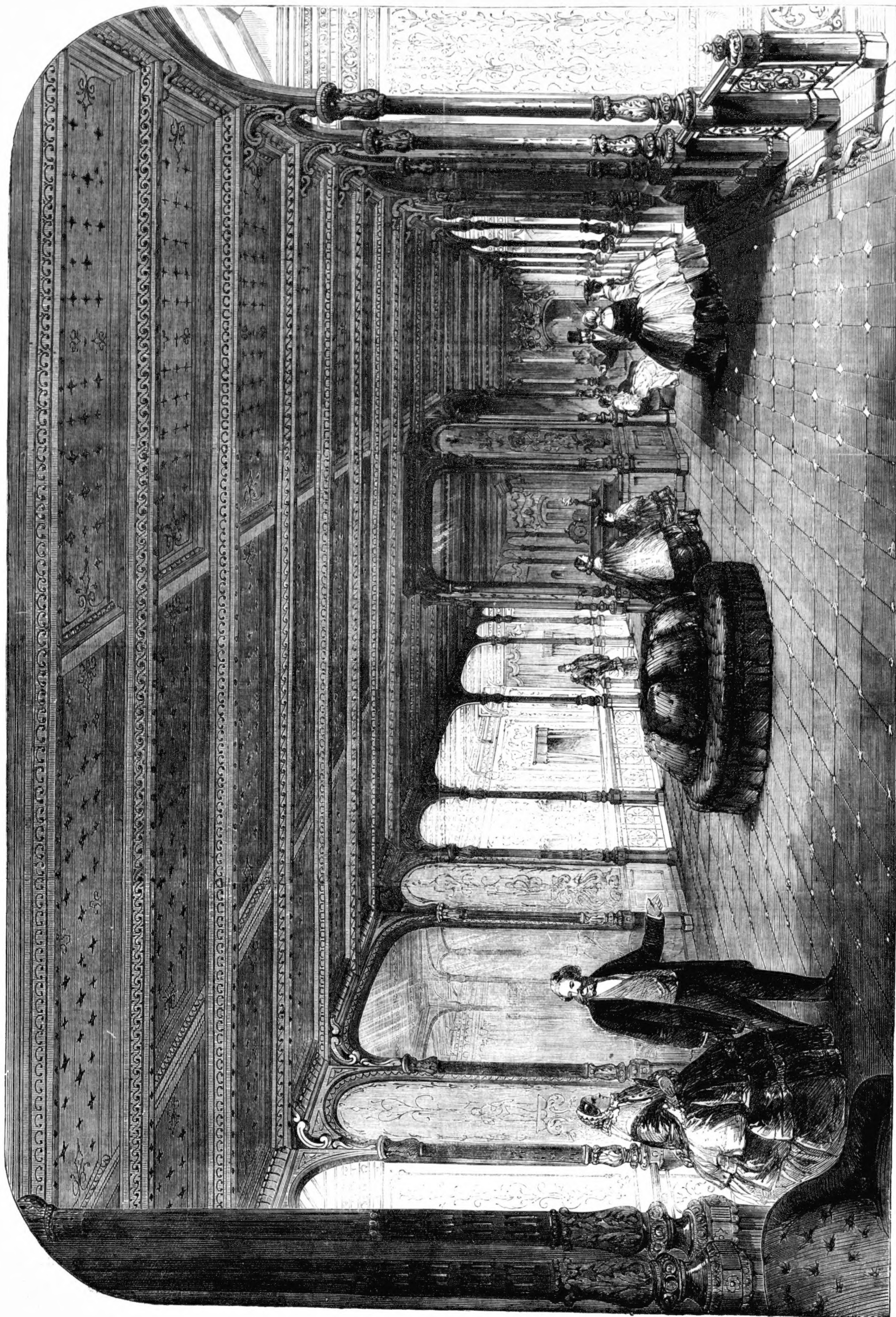
COLONEL FORBES, committed for trial on a charge of writing indecent letters to a lady, has absconded. His recognisances and those of his sureties (£400 each) have been estreated, and a reward of fifty pounds is offered for the Colonel's apprehension.

A HAPPY FAMILY.—There is a caricature privately circulating in Paris representing the Emperor Napoleon putting a cat, a dog, a monkey, a parrot, a woman, and a serpent, all into one bag. The Emperor Francis Joseph looks on in some surprise, and inquires, "Que faites vous la?" "An Italian Confederation," replies Napoleon, "and you will be so good as to put one of your arms into it." "Very willingly," replies the Austrian, "armed with my 800,000 claws."

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Sir Arthur Buller, the Liberal candidate for Devonport, has been returned. His opponent was Mr. Ferrand.—Mr. Wyld has been returned for Bodmin, vacated by Dr. Michell.

DINING-ROOM AND GRAND SALOON OF THE GREAT EASTERN.

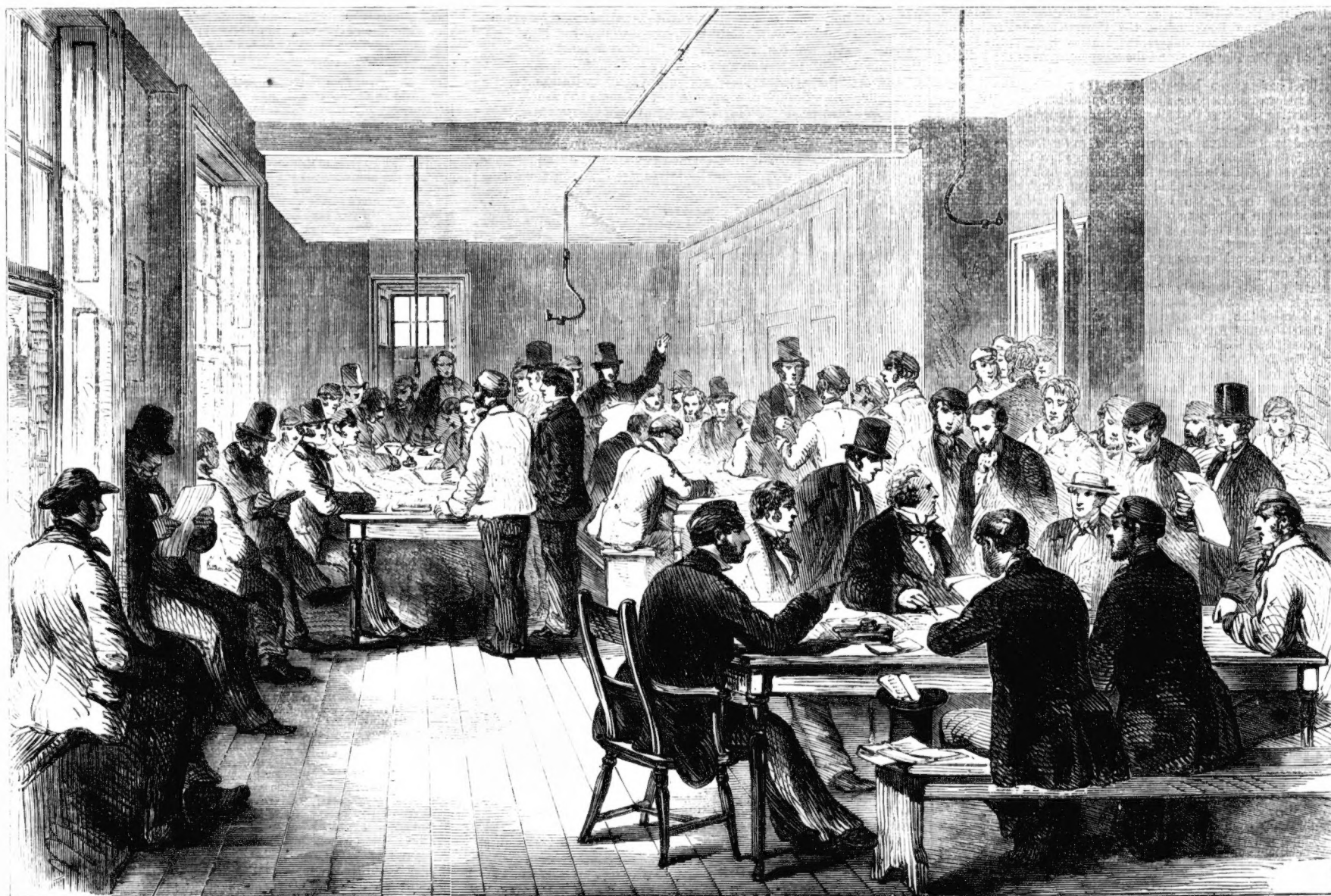
In our last Impression we gave a detailed account of the fittings of the Great Eastern steam-ship, and of the entertainment which inaugurated the achievement of the works between decks. We now present our readers with two Engravings, one of which illustrates the Banquet in the Dining-room, with Lord Stanley proposing success to the monster vessel; the other showing the elaborate decorations of that princely apartment, the Grand Saloon.



THE GRAND SALOON OF THE "GREAT EASTERN" STEAM-SHIP.



THE STRIKE.—THE EXTERIOR OF MESSRS. TROLLOPE AND SON'S WORKS ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE STRIKE.



THE STRIKE.—COMMITTEE-ROOM AT THE PAVIERS' ARMS.

THE BUILDERS' STRIKE.

As our readers are well aware, last Monday week all the great building firms closed their doors, Messrs. Trollope's being the only one of the establishments which insisted upon the declaration that remained open.

In answer to the statements of the master builders as to the fairness and feasibility of their workmen's demands a letter appeared in the *Times* of Monday last, dated from the committee-rooms at the Paviers' Arms, and signed by six of the delegates. The *Times* thus speaks of that letter:—"The reply of the United Building Trades' Conference to the Address of the Master Builders is either a dangerous equivocation or a complete answer. It surprises us with a downright denial of the principles hitherto assumed to prevail in Trades' Unions, and with the assertion only of doctrines distinguished by propriety and prudence." According to the evidence adduced in the letter there is no tyranny practised by the unions with which they are connected, no unjust restriction imposed upon the freedom of individuals, no hardship put upon employers. Their objects are purely beneficial, such as the Legislature has deliberately permitted, and such as society must necessarily approve. They say, in their own words: "That our societies should be governed by laws, and that their members should be requested to conform to those laws is but natural; and we believe such is the case in all corporations, and every club among the upper classes in Pall-mall and St. James's." In fact, the letter is altogether, as the *Times* says, "a dangerous equivocation or a complete answer." However, the great morning paper, in its remarks upon the reply of the delegates, thus sums up the question:—"Looking at what men of education and position are fain to accept in the way of salary, it cannot be said that 5s. 6d. a day for a skilled workman, and 3s. 4d. a day for inferior workmen, is niggardly payment. Nevertheless, though these terms may be handsome in themselves, it is undoubtedly the privilege of the men to raise them, if the circumstances of the market justify the rise. The workmen claim to give less work for the same money, not because labour is scarce, but because it is in such excess as to glut the market. In proportion as it is plentiful, according to their argument, it is to cost all the more—a proposition so absurd that we wonder how it could have ever been advanced. That, however, is the position in which the supporters of the nine hours movement now stand, and which will not be affected either one way or the other by discussions about Trades' Unions generally."

As the strike is an all-absorbing topic just now, and as it is calculated greatly to influence trade generally, we have thought thematter sufficiently important to devote two illustrations to it. Our Engravings are—"A Meeting at the Committee-rooms," and "The Exterior of Messrs. Trollope's Works," on the day the "declaration" was enforced.

THE NINE HOURS MOVEMENT.

THE struggle between employers and employed in the building trades remains in much the same position as when we last wrote about it. Both parties declare that they will never give in, though some symptoms of irresolution amongst the masters have appeared. Seven or eight firms have reopened their shops unconditionally as to the declaration, and on the old system of ten hours. It appears, too, that the magnitude of the turn-out, or lock-out, has been somewhat exaggerated—in fact, that only the very large establishments have been closed. However, these are numerous enough, and in ordinary times employ an immense number of artisans.

Several meetings have been held during the week, none of any importance, however, save a delegate meeting from various trades' unions. This assembly was held at Shaftesbury Hall, Aldersgate-street, on Tuesday. The delegates present represented the Ropemakers of the Port of London, the Block-coopers, the Stove-smiths, the Tailors' Labour Agency, the Silver Spoonmakers' Society, the Tin-plate Workers, the French Polishers, the Cabinetmakers, the Corkcutters, the Second Society of City Shoe and Boot Makers, the West-end Ladies Shoemakers, the Plumbers, the Boilermakers, the London Society of Compositors, the Executive Council of the Amalgamated Engineers, the Zincworkers, the Bookbinders, the Umbrella and Parasol Silk Weavers, the Boot and Shoe Makers, the Masons' Society, the Joiners and Carpenters, the Plasterers, and the other branches of the building trades.

The subject having been brought before the meeting, the delegate from the Amalgamated Engineers spoke in opposition to the "declaration," expressing his belief that all such documents were futile. It was adopted by the Amalgamated Engineers with a mental reserve, and was regarded as of no value afterwards; and, so far from the Amalgamated Engineers' Society having gone down since their last great struggle six years and a half ago, their numbers had increased from 9800 to nearly 87,000, and they had expended in direct relief no less than £139,000. The London building trades, he said, had always been most liberal in supporting other trades in their disputes, and he thought that they should be assisted now.—Mr. Edwards, from the Tailors' Labour Agency, expressed his horror of strikes. His advice was that the men should return to their work if the obnoxious document, which every one must be opposed to, were withdrawn.—The Bookbinders' delegate supported this advice. He thought that the nine hours movement could never be carried except by moral suasion, and, in his view, the men were wrong in resorting to a strike to achieve their object. Another bookbinder, however, with the delegate from the Horseshoe Society, the Tinplate Workers, and the delegate from the Ladies' Shoemakers supported the movement.—The representative from the London Society of Compositors' Committee condemned the "declaration;" and the delegate from the United Flint Glass Cutters stated that their members in all parts of the kingdom had been communicated with, and that they had resolved to support the nine hours movement, and to make a weekly payment to the builders' trades as long as they remained "out."

After some further discussion the secretary to the Amalgamated Engineers moved—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the trades of the United Kingdom are in duty bound to support the building trades in the present struggle.

Upon this Mr. Edwards moved as an amendment—

That the representatives of the various trades in the metropolis here assembled desire to express their sympathy with the operative builders in their present unhappy contest with the employers. But, looking at the whole bearing of the case, they would earnestly recommend that the claim on the part of the men for nine hours daily labour, instead of ten, be laid aside, in the hope that it may hereafter be amicably and satisfactorily adjusted; and that a deputation from this meeting be appointed to wait on the Committee of Master Builders, and respectfully urge upon them the immediate withdrawal of the offensive document.

This amendment was received with hisses, and, not meeting with a second, the resolution was carried unanimously. The meeting then adjourned for a week.

Although large sums of money are being daily received by the workmen's society, from workmen in town and country, yet the "lockouts" refused to receive any allowance for the last week, in a great majority of instances the men not requiring it. The society allowance to operatives on strike is, for masons and skilled artisans 4s. per day, bricklayers 3s., and labourers 2s. per day. It has been stated that the funds in hand amount to some £30,000.

The carpenters of Dublin, it seems, were about to follow in the footsteps of their brother craftsmen in London. The building trade has been for some time past, and is at present, in a very flourishing state in Dublin, and as the rise in wages sought for was moderate, 2s. a week, the masters yielded. The negotiations between the employers and the employed are said to have been conducted in a spirit of moderation, which speedily led to an agreement. The standard wages are now 30s. per week, with a prospect of constant employment.

A bill "to establish Equitable Councils of Conciliation to adjust Differences between Masters and Operatives" has been prepared by Mr. Mackinnon, M.P., Mr. Slaney, M.P., and Mr. Ingham, M.P., for the consideration of hon. members during the ensuing Parliamentary recess. The Councils of Conciliation will consist of an equal

number of masters and operatives, and the awards of these councils (with certain formal exceptions) will be final and conclusive, and not subject to review or challenge by any court or authority whatsoever. These councils will be licensed by the Secretary of State when duly formed (on petition to that effect). They must include at least two masters and two workmen, and not more than six masters and six workmen, with a chairman. The councils will be elected for one year only, on the first Monday in December. The petitioners for a license will elect the first council; but householders and part occupiers of houses in cities and boroughs (where a council has been formed) may be registered as voters for the council and be elected thereto. The masters will nominate their own portion of the council and the workmen elect theirs. The sessions of the council are to be held in the Justice Courthouse.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1859.

MR. COBDEN AT ROCHDALE.

A GOOD deal of interest naturally belongs to Mr. Cobden's reappearance in public life. He has been a long time away from the world, and he has refused a place in the new Government. More genial than his old coadjutor Bright, he claims sympathy, too, in the domestic suffering which he has of late years undergone. No wonder that he had a large gathering in the town which he represents the other evening, and that the country should read his speech with more curiosity than it is likely to bring to most harangues of the recess.

Mr. Cobden has in no way changed his views, and his speech might be abridged into a few propositions such as he has often laid down before. He begins by denouncing the bribery of which we had plenty at the late election. He doubts whether the House of Commons is very sincere in its wish to put the practice down. A severer imputation could hardly be made against a branch of the Legislature. We are not bound to defend it, however; and certainly the practice must be almost universally winked at by state-men, or it would not be so prevalent. Mr. Cobden suggests that bribery must be made "criminal," and punishable as such by law on the prosecution of the Attorney-General. We can have no objection to the principle, but we warn our readers not to hope too much from its adoption in practice. It would be evaded in its turn, and, in times of party bitterness, would also be tyrannically used for party objects. So long as the opinion of the public gives a certain sanction to corruption—which it virtually does just now by not holding it to be personally infamous—so long the abuse will last. There are other vices more disliked, and which, yet, the state of the world does not enable us to attack successfully by public legislation. The whole question, indeed, of conventional morality is in a loose and unsettled condition.

After the expected compliments to America Mr. Cobden came to the really interesting questions of the day—neutrality, France, and military expenditure. On the first he said what we have all been saying since New Year's Day; but, on the two last, he again broached his customary sectarian views garnished with the ordinary abuse of the press characteristic of his school. That the Yankees should speak of our precautions against Continental attack as a "craze" is literally a fact of no importance whatever. Their own position is so different from ours—their traditions as a separate nation so different also—that they cannot enter into our feelings on this particular point. Perhaps, too, a little jealousy on their own account mingles with the emotions with which they watch our naval and military growth. But it is of more consequence that Mr. Cobden should suppose that it is we who make France arm rather than France which makes us.

On this point we need only consult bare records of fact; and when Mr. Cobden fairly does this he will see that the great naval development of late years is originally a French movement. In the interval between the Reform Bill and '48 the French, of their own free will, and under the influence of the Prince de Joinville, made such a stride in naval matters that at one period (that of the Syrian war) their squadron boasted itself superior to ours in the Mediterranean. The Prince has himself written its history, and chronicled its aspirations, and our own naval officers are well acquainted with both. The Revolution, whatever else it changed, did not interfere with French naval ambition, for it was immediately followed by an elaborate inquiry into the condition of their marine with a view to its improvement and extension. Since the Russian war the country has seen in Cherbourg and its squadron what French energy can do. Did we provoke that demonstration? If we did it was not by our zeal and readiness, but rather by the want of these.

When Mr. Cobden attacks the press for putting the nation on its guard he is complimenting it. But suppose the movement of preparation an exaggerated one, whose fault is that? Not the fault of the press, but of the public, which it represents while it influences it.

We turn with more satisfaction to the speaker's account of the reasons which induced him to decline office. They may well appear strange to some people in their very simplicity. Mr. Cobden disapproved Lord Palmerston's foreign policy, and would have nothing to do with his Cabinet. It was the resolution of an honest man; and one which will do more good to Mr. Cobden's fame in the long run than would have been done

for him by the éclat of power. Indeed, judging from the speech which his friend Mr. Bright made on this same occasion, some discontent with the Whig Ministry already exists in the ranks of the Manchester Liberals. Dark threats are levelled at them; and it is intimated that they will soon be turned out if they fall short in the matter of Reform. Does this point to the existence of some element hostile to Reform in the Ministry? We cannot say. But at least Mr. Bright has given his friends "a first warning," which may employ their minds usefully during the autumnal holiday.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE SEVENTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY of the birthday of the Duchess of Kent was celebrated on Wednesday.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA is evidently approaching the end of his days. He is sinking rapidly.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND PRINCE ALFRED visited Melrose Abbey and Abbotsford last week.

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS OF RUSSIA is stopping at Berne.

THE *Ost Preussische Zeitung* thinks the Grand Duke Constantine's visit to England may have a political significance. "As a consequence of the friendly relations existing between Prussia and England, we may look for overtures from Russia to the last-named Power, and as a consequence of this a complete northern alliance."

THE EMPEROR OF ANNAM is said to have solicited peace of the French Admiral, De Genouilly.

THE SPANISH TITLED ARISTOCRACY, according to one of the journals, consists of two princes, 82 dukes, 689 marquises, 546 counts, 74 viscounts, and 63 barons.

SIR GEORGE STAUNTON, formerly a prominent member in the East India Company, connected with Lord Macartney's Chinese embassy and other proceedings in China, and afterwards a member of Parliament in England, died on Thursday, at the age of seventy-eight.

THE FIRST COMPLETE TRANSLATION of Dr. Livingstone's Travels has just appeared in Paris.

THE RIGHT HON. WILLIAM COWPER has been appointed Vice-President of the Board of Trade, in succession to Mr. James Wilson.

A LITERARY AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY has lately been established in the Isle of Man, entitled "The Manx Society for Publication of National Documents of the Isle of Man." The society intends to make every possible search after the most ancient records of the island, and to publish a standard edition of all its statute laws under a responsible editor.

THE PROSPECTS OF THE SPORTSMEN appear to be more than usually good this year. From the Perthshire moors generally there are encouraging accounts. Sportsmen are fast making their way to their shooting quarters.

THE CEREAL CROPS IN SCOTLAND ARE LIGHT, and will be rather below an average, but the quality promises to be very fine. Harvest has commenced in some of the earlier districts. The potato crop is good, and quite free of disease.

IN TURKEY there are now 10,897 schools for Mussulmans, which are frequented by 230,545 boys and 121,259 girls, and superintended by 11,226 teachers. There are also 2249 schools for Christians, receiving 105,361 boys and 7806 girls, with 2259 teachers.

CHESHUNT FAIR, which has been held for a number of years on the 24th of August, on Bristow-field, is at last to be done away with. Sir Richard Mayne has proclaimed that the fair is illegal.

A NEW REMEDY AGAINST DYPHTHERIA is recommended in the *Union Médicale*. It consists of irrigations of the throat with salt water, which is not to be swallowed. The water may be either impregnated with common salt, or with alum, chlorate of potassa, iodide of potassium, or chloride of lime—in all cases so as to render the taste supportable.

MR. GOULBURN has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the Board of Customs, in the room of Mr. Spring Rice, resigned in consequence of ill health. The seat at the board vacant by the promotion of Mr. Goulburn will be filled by Mr. Ralph William Grey.

A CHAPEL, lately occupied by a congregation of Independents, in Wilson-street, Drury-lane, has been purchased by a Catholic gentleman, and presented by him to the "diocese." It is to be opened under the patronage of our Lady of Dolours and St. Charles Borromeo.

MR. HERBERT FISHER, the eldest son of the Rev. Canon Fisher, the Rector of the parish of Poulshott, Wilts, has been appointed private tutor to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales during his sojourn at Oxford.

THE WINANS, THE CIGAR-SHAPED SEAMEN, had another trial. It is stated that a uniform speed of fifteen miles an hour was attained with thirty-six revolutions per minute, the boilers working to about one-third of their capacity.

THE LIABILITIES OF THE TREASURY CHEST on the 31st of March, 1858, are returned at £3,206,643, and the assets at £4,537,344, leaving a surplus balance available for the service of the chest amounting to £1,330,701.

THE *Piedmontese Gazette* contains a Royal decree authorising the concession to Messrs. Peto and Wagstaff of a railway to be constructed between Voltri and Savona, in Piedmont.

SOME OF THE PAYMENTS OF THE GREENOCK RAILWAY COMPANY to persons injured by the late accident are curious, among which we may mention that of a man who got a black eye through the collision, and who received by way of solatium a season ticket for a year and a half.

A WHITE FLAG has for some days past been floating over the House of Correction of Hohenelbe, in Bohemia, to indicate that there are no prisoners. The prison is the only one in a district containing a population of 70,000, the greater part of whom are weavers.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY has produced this year £8400. Last year, owing to the attractions of Mr. Frith's "Derby Day," the receipts ran to several hundred pounds more.

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THE HERRING FISHERY in SCOTLAND up to Saturday last was a failure. The weather had been fine, and there was a prospect of improvement, but in the meantime prices had advanced.

A REPRODUCTION OF THE "BIBLIA PAUPERUM," from the copy in the British Museum Library, is announced by Mr. J. Russell Smith. It will consist of forty engravings, printed in one volume, uniform with Mr. Leigh Sotheby's "Principia Topographica."

A MEETING was held at Willis's Rooms on Friday week with the object of resuscitating the Polytechnic Institution. It is proposed to place the institution upon a limited liability foundation.

THE PRESENTS recently made to the Queen by the King of Siam are now at Aston Hall, Birmingham, having been contributed by her Majesty to the exhibition there.

AT A COURT OF COMMITTEES of Guy's Hospital, recently held, the Duke of Cambridge was unanimously chosen a Governor.

THE BAKERS OF THE METROPOLIS are agitating for an abridgment of the hours of labour, from eighteen to twelve, and the substitution of day for night work.

DR. HUMPHREYS, who absconded from Cheltenham with a friend's wife, has been served with a citation from the Divorce Court.

THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT has resolved to increase the fortifications of the Island of Cuba, in order to protect it against an attack of filibusters.

A POOR WOMAN named Elizabeth Bradbury, about forty years of age, was found dead on the floor of a house in Essex-street, Hoxton, from starvation. The room was perfectly destitute of any furniture, or the commonest necessities of life.

THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT, says a letter from the Hague, has it in contemplation to increase its colonial army; and a number of the Swiss who have recently quitted the Neapolitan service are said to have decided on enrolling themselves for service in Batavia.

ONE DAY LAST WEEK MILE GUARDUCCI WAS MARRIED, at Dublin, to the eldest son of the Duke de Cirrella of Naples, and the same evening took the leading part in "La Favorita" at the Theatre Royal. Mile. Titiens was the principal bridemaid at the marriage.

THE WIFE OF WILLIAM DAVISON, in the parish of Eccleshall, gave birth to three sons on Sunday, the 7th inst., all of whom are living and seem likely to thrive. In reply to an application, made through the Vicar of the parish, the Queen has presented Mrs. Davison with £3.

THIS YEAR £2,000,000 more in banknotes are in circulation in England than there were last year. This is attributed to the great preponderance of home travellers this season.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY invite tenders for the construction of a branch, about eleven miles and a half in length, from the North Yorkshire and Cleveland line to Rosedale, in the North Riding.

MADAME GASSIER, lately a great favourite with the London public, and now at the Haymarket, is engaged at the theatre of that city for the approaching winter season, on terms equivalent to five hundred pounds sterling of our money per week, in addition to a free benefit.

A LITTLE GIRL, eleven years of age drowned herself in the Regent's Canal because her mother threatened to report some misconduct to her father.

GREAT CONVICTION occurred at WALTON, and some damage to property by the bursting of a dam of the canal last week.

MR. VILLIERS, the red-hot writer of the *Times*, is on the sick list. It is thought that he will not be able to return to his office.

A NEW METHOD of Chlores with a new patent, the inventor is a Mr. J. J. J.

TO turn out the latest crown in Ireland, the market value of the article of food ruled.

MR. RUSH, who was American Minister to the English Court from 1817 to 1825, and at Philadelphia lately in his seventy-ninth year.

GREAT DAMAGE was done by fire on Sunday on the farm of Mr. M. M. M. at Woodford. The conflagration was visible for miles.

A SOLDIER was KILLED in LEITH FORT the other day, owing to his belt catching in the harness of a horse. The startled animal ran round the yard dragging the soldier, and finally dashing his head against the wall.

A COMMISSIONER is appointed "to inquire into the mode of taking evidence in the Court of Chancery, and its effects."

THE COLLIERIES employed at the Westminster, Froid, Yron, Brynmally, and Brynbo Collieries are out on strike, demanding an advance of sixpence per day.

MR. WILLIAM DOUGLAS CHRISTIE, who has been for some years Minister at the Argentine Confederation, is appointed to Brazil, on the resignation of the Hon. Francis Reginald Forbes.

TWO DEATHS from the unskilled use of chloroform have been notified to the Registrar-General during the last few days: one occurring in the borough of Southwark, the second in Westminster.

THE BODY OF A GENTLEMAN was found on Saturday on Hampstead Heath, not far from the spot where John Sadler committed suicide. It is believed that the deceased destroyed himself.

THE FIRST OF AUGUST, the anniversary of the British emancipation, was observed in various parts of the United States. Both coloured and white people took part in the processions, and some of the best speeches were made by the former, and by women as well as by men.

WILLIAM THOMAS, a boy eleven years of age, saved a gentleman from drowning in Sunderland Harbour. A skill in which this gentleman was seated capsize. Thomas, observing this from a boat towed at the stern of a steamer, cut the rope, rowed towards the drowning man, and kept his head above water till others came to his assistance.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE Pontefract election petition is still the talk of the town. Since I wrote last the Committee appointed by the House to examine into and to report upon this curious business have laid their report upon the table, and the following extract contains the pith of this document. After detailing the process by which they were induced to come to a conclusion, they say, "Such are the facts with reference to the withdrawal of the Pontefract election petition. Many of these facts are still under dispute; but one thing is clear, and that is, that a great misconception has prevailed throughout, as well with regard to the intention of the parties, as also with regard to the meaning and effect of the memorandum itself. The consequence is that the election petition has never been tried, the agreement intended to be substituted for it has failed of taking effect, and the rights of the parties with regard to the seat have not been determined. Under these circumstances your Committee are of opinion that the petitioner should, if possible, be restored to the same position in which he stood before the agreement of the 19th July, 1859, was signed, and before the election petition was withdrawn; but your Committee must leave it to the House to determine whether it possesses the power of restoring the petitioner to that position." When this report came to be considered, it became a question what the House could do in the matter, and it very soon appeared that it could do nothing. All proceedings on elections now are governed by statute; and under this statute the House clearly had no power to carry out the recommendation contained in the last paragraph. A petition against Mr. Overend had been presented, and had been withdrawn, and the House had no power to renew it. Under these circumstances Mr. Westhead, the member for York, put it strongly to Mr. Overend that he ought to provide a remedy for this difficulty by retiring from his seat, and thus give Mr. Childers a chance of fighting the battle over again. This Mr. Overend declined, however, to do; but, being anxious to deal fairly with Mr. Childers, he offered to refer the matter to Sir George Grey and Sir John Pakington, who should have the power to appoint a referee, who could go into the whole case, and into a scrutiny of votes if necessary, and decide the question. This offer was at once accepted, and Sir George Grey and Sir John Pakington, after due consultation, appointed Sir John Coleridge as referee. Whether Sir John has consented to act I have not learned. This, then, is the *status in quo* of this curious business. There is still, however, another question which has not been settled, and probably never will be. I mean the question whether the agents of Mr. Childers were the victims of a conspiracy or of a misapprehension? I am disposed to think that Mr. Rose may have meant all fair. He was overwhelmed with business, and, having no time to give due consideration to this matter, he left it to be managed principally by Mr. Spofforth, his head clerk, and Mr. Cariss, Mr. Overend's local agent. At all events, there is a doubt, and Mr. Rose, who has hitherto borne the character of a strictly honourable man, ought to have the benefit of the doubt. But Mr. Spofforth and Mr. Cariss, especially the former, stand on different ground. And it is difficult, after reading the evidence, to believe that these gentlemen did not know all along that Mr. Leeman, on the part of Mr. Childers, intended to claim the seat when he signed the agreement. Indeed, the language of the report seems to be intended to convey the impression that Mr. Spofforth certainly did know. But here is the agreement, with the Committee's remarks, and your readers may judge for themselves:—"On the following day, the 26th of July, a meeting was held, at which duplicates of the agreement were exchanged. The agreement was as follows:—"Pontefract Election Petition. It being distinctly understood that no personal charges can be brought either against Mr. Overend on the one hand or against Mr. Childers on the other, and having regard to the peace of the borough, which would be greatly disturbed by proceeding with the petition, it is agreed that the petition shall be forthwith withdrawn, and that, instead of proceeding with the scrutiny, it shall be referred to Lord March to decide, upon hearing the statement of facts from both sides, and evidence, if necessary, on any disputed points as to what ought to be done between the parties, both the sitting member and the petitioners being bound to act by the award." During the meeting observations were made by which Mr. Spofforth became aware that Mr. Childers intended to claim the seat." The remark of the Committee I have put in italics to draw especial attention to it, for, when this meeting was held at which Mr. Spofforth became aware that Mr. Childers intended to claim the seat, the petition against Mr. Overend was not withdrawn. It seems, therefore, an inevitable conclusion that Mr. Spofforth allowed Mr. Leeman to sign the document and to withdraw the petition with the impression that the question of the seat was referred to arbitration—when he (Mr. Spofforth) knew all the time that Mr. Overend and his agent had no intention so to refer it.

Excess of zeal is nearly always a bad thing, but specially bad when it shows itself, as is nearly invariably the case, in sectarian differences. These zealots do infinitely more harm than good, rendering themselves ridiculous and degrading the cause for which they imagine they are fighting. Here is poor, misguided, wrongheaded Mr. Spooner presenting to the House a petition from the Protestant Association praying against any Treasury grant in aid of any reformatory which may be connected with a monastic institution, as contrary to law and calculated to spread all those doctrines which are invariably denounced in one set formula among these red-hot Protestants. Now, surely there is no man of sense but must allow that a reformatory in any shape is a good thing, and that it is better for a wretched outcast lad to be picked off the streets and taught any one form of religion, which in itself is not heathenish or blasphemous, rather than be let to run on in his career of

misery and vice. Moreover, it is but to the children of persons of their own religion that these Roman Catholic reformatories are open; they do not seek to proselytise, and it is certain that the results obtained have proved as satisfactory as any established by us. I myself have seen the excellent working of the reformatory attached to the Trappist monastery at Charnwood, in Leicestershire, where two hundred boys, all originally criminals, are now leading happy lives and learning useful trades; and it would be worse than foolish to take away the means of humanising these children and rendering them decent members of society, for the sake of humouring the rancorous spleen of a mistaken set of persons. It is one consolation to think that the names of the person presenting the petition, and of the body signing it, are almost sufficient guarantees to ensure its being passed over in silence; but it is a matter of regret to think that in these enlightened times people are yet to be met with such limited understandings and such narrow views.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain have determined to do honour to their founder and president, the late Mr. Jacob Bell, who watched over them and furthered their objects in every possible manner during his life, and bequeathed them a legacy of £2000 at his death. A special general meeting of the society was recently held, when it was determined to establish by subscription two annual pharmaceutical scholarships for apprentices and associates of the society, to be called "The Bell Memorial Pharmaceutical Scholarships." Committees for the furtherance of the project are being formed in the principal provincial towns, and it is believed that the movement will be generally responded to. The pictures bequeathed by Mr. Bell to the nation may be seen by any one who does not object to breaking his neck. They are hung on the staircase of Marlborough House, and, by standing in a slanting attitude and turning your face horizontally, you may manage to get a glimpse of them. N.B. Stout persons are recommended to lie on their backs on the landing and peer through the balustrades. The pictures will be moved to Kensington some day, I suppose, when the Prince Consort has thoroughly carried his point, made Mr. Sheepshanks a baronet, and unseated Mr. Coningham.

I do not know that the tremendous enthusiasm displayed by our friend the liner when he visited the Great Eastern steam-ship last week and drank champagne in company with nobles will be entirely reciprocated by the general public. As Mr. Thackeray said of the Pyramids, she is "very big;" and thus, without in the least pretending to the used-up cant of the present day, one has really no more to say about her, except that she is particularly ugly and very high out of the water. The last peculiarity will, of course, be less remarkable when she has her freight and passengers on board and is out at sea; but just now, lying off Deptford, there she looks gigantic. Her enormous size is best comprehended by walking her deck from end to end. Down below she is divided into so many compartments that you lose all realisation of her length, and seem passing through perpetual sections of hotel coffee-rooms. Her berths and sleeping apartments generally are excellent, those of the better class really superb, combining comfort with luxury; but there are some amiships with no portholes and no connection with the outer atmosphere, simply lighted by a skylight or a reflected glimmer from another window, that do not promise much "comfort in a storm." It is now reported that the first trip, instead of being a run into the Atlantic, will be confined to a visit to Cherbourg and a little coasting round our own island. This will be a blow to various enterprising spirits, notably press-men, not one of whom would listen to any reasonable proposal for a quiet bathing excursion or seaside holiday, on the plea that "he was going out in the big ship." An odd phase of the affair is that several entertainers, wizards, polyphonists, character-singers, and such like, wrote to the proprietors, offering their services for the amusement of the company going out on the trial trip. A noteworthy fact is that the ship (:) nearest in size to this monster arrived in England from America about thirty years ago. She was called the *Baron of Renfrew*, was six hundred feet long, and was composed of large logs of timber clamped together in the roughest manner. It was predicted that she never would steer, never would cross the Atlantic, but she did, and immediately on her arrival was broken up. Indeed she was nothing more than imported timber, having been patched together to avoid the timber duties, which then were exceedingly heavy. She fulfilled her mission in every way, but the Government was down upon the new dodge, and prevented any repetition of the experiment.

Do you know Titian's long-lost "Sleeping Venus"? If you don't, it has not been through any fault of her late proprietor, Mr. Barrett, the picture-dealer, of the Strand, who has advertised her charms in the most lavish and laudable manner. He has challenged the world to produce her equal, and he has begged everybody to proclaim him an impostor, if possible. Mr. Barrett has been of Mr. Barnum's opinion that, having a really good thing, it is impolitic to hide it under a bushel, and that, all secure in your own honesty, any means towards a realisation of your end are allowable. The picture was essentially a fine work of art, I believe, in bonâ fide what the possessor represented it, and he has triumphed; for, if I understand rightly, he has found a purchaser for his treasure in the person of the Duke of Wellington, at the price of £5000!

Miss Muloch's last work, "A Life for a Life," is decidedly her best; indeed, it would be difficult to imagine a book written in a sweeter spirit or more artistically framed. It is hopeless in these days to find a novel in which the chief incident can be kept ingeniously concealed until the proper moment for discovery, and, therefore, that we guess the great secret weighing on the hero's mind, and foresee how it will influence his career, cannot be urged as a great fault against the book. Most of the character-drawing is very good, the hero and heroine are a little too perfect, and the stern retribution-exacting old clergyman is a type of a race now but seldom met with, but both the heroine's sisters, the indolent young officer, the governor and the chaplain of the gaol, are all capably drawn. The incident of Mr. Frank Charteris's fall is somewhat bungled, and his loss of his colonial governorship never satisfactorily accounted for; the whole of this episode, moreover, is essentially regarded merely from a woman's point of view, and as so proportionately. Such woes unnumbered would not really flow from the direful spring described. But, taken in its integrity, "A Life for a Life" is an admirable, interesting, well-told tale, as sound in morality as in composition, and doing credit to its writer, both as an authoress and a woman.

When we find that above two thousand persons are nominated in each year to the Civil Service we see the use of a little book which has just been published by Messrs. Bell and Daldy, called "Under Government," giving all the information necessary and hitherto fruitlessly sought after by persons wishing for appointments in the various civil departments of the Executive. The necessary examination, the classified salaries, periodical rates of progressive increase, the varying prospects of promotion, length of holiday granted, &c., in all the different public offices are here to be found, compiled most accurately, and in the handiest shape, by Mr. Parkinson, himself an official. There is no similar book in existence; and, being neat, reliable, and cheap, "Under Government" is sure to be successful.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

"The Wife's Secret," a play by Mr. Lovell, which had a great success when originally produced at the Haymarket, owing to the capital acting of Mr. and Mrs. Keen, is now being played for the last time at the Princess'. The acting is as good as ever, and the houses are crowded.

Mr. Toole has left the *ABOLITION* for a month, and is away on a provincial trip to Dublin and Edinburgh.

Mr. Knowles, of Manchester, has done well in securing for his winter season, as first low comedian, Mr. Joseph Robins, of amateur-clown celebrity. Since his adoption of the stage as his profession Mr. Robins has wisely gone through that course of provincial drudgery which is necessary to all who would be good actors. He was recently a great favourite at Edinburgh, and we may hope soon to see him in London.

RAILWAY POVERTY.

An addition of 1 per cent in the profits on railway capital would represent an improvement of private incomes to the amount of £3,000,000 annually—a sum equivalent to the produce of an income tax at 3d. in the pound. We need say no more—if, indeed, it was necessary to say as much—in proof of the magnitude of this important subject. On those half-yearly meetings now pending hang the comforts and fortunes of innumerable households. Next to a good harvest in the elements of prosperity comes a good railway dividend, but, unfortunately, it comes very seldom, or perhaps we may say that, upon an average of companies and accounts, it never comes at all. The capital invested in these prodigious concerns is equal to one-third of the National Debt, but the interest returned, after all our expenditure of energy and enterprise, is barely above the easy and silent product of money in Consols. No wonder that shareholders think they have "grievances."

In the year 1858 the actual average produce of every £100 invested in railways, after working expenses had been fairly deducted, was exactly £3 15s., a return which, if the capital had represented nothing but the original and genuine expenditure upon the line, would have given 3½ per cent as the average interest upon railway property. The real state of things, however, was vastly different from this. The £100 in question was compounded of two sums, in the proportion of £56 of ordinary or original capital to £44 of preference capital and loan. In other words, Railway Companies, after raising and expending their proper stock, had borrowed at the rate of £80 to every £100 in addition, so that interest had to be found for nearly twice as much principal as was originally contemplated. Nor was this all. Not only had the profits to be distributed over this additional surface, but the distribution itself was unequal, for the second comers took more than the first. The average rate of interest upon the preference stock—representing £44 out of the £100—was somewhat above 4½ per cent, so that only a bare 3 per cent was left for the ordinary capital. Above all, this was only an average, composed of all receipts on all lines, good and bad, and, as some of these concerns were considerably more profitable than others, it will be readily understood what was the predicament of the rest.

This, in a few words, is the real secret of railway poverty. The companies are in debt; there are mortgages on their earnings, and as they are obliged to satisfy their creditors before reimbursing themselves their divisible profits dwindle down as we see. Otherwise there is certainly nothing in the results of these enterprises of which any shareholder need complain. Working expenses are high, and indeed are rather on the increase, but they leave a fair balance nevertheless. In 1858 they averaged 49 per cent of the receipts, so that more than sixpence out of every shilling taken at the counter was good for gain; that is to say, after all charges have been provided for, there still remains £51 out of every £100 clear profit. What would not that pay per cent if railway companies had never quarrelled and never borrowed, and if "railway capital" represented nothing more than the money fairly spent on the construction of the line!

All that railway companies can now do is to raise their dividends to a respectable figure. They cannot recover the prospects which were theirs at the beginning. The visions of 10, 20, or 30 per cent. were reasonable enough then; they might but for mismanagement have been actually realised, but they are purely chimerical now. Still, an average dividend of 5 per cent, or so, cannot be out of reach. The way to this desirable result is clear enough. Railway companies must not quarrel, or, at least, if they quarrel, they must not fight. They must look their affairs boldly in the face, and not be afraid of telling the truth when it happens to be disagreeable. The worst can be got over when it is known to be the worst; it is uncertainty which creates the greatest mischief of all. After this, and as regards the public, never was work easier than directors have now before them. The response of the public to the slightest attention is instantaneous; the least increase of accommodation multiplies traffic indefinitely; indeed, at the present season of the year, there seems no limit to travelling. Every spot in the kingdom more picturesque than ordinary has its swarm of visitors; every village on the coast is crowded with company. Go where you will, things present the same aspect—streets full of bustle, hotels full of guests, piers full of promenaders, and trains full of passengers. All this argues well for the prosperity of the country and the ease of the population, but tells also especially in favour of railways. They provide the machinery for this general migration, and they ought to reap the best of the profits. For the next two months the whole kingdom will be astir, and if railway companies cannot so retrace their steps as to retrieve all their follies, they can, at any rate, turn to their advantage a species of popular self-indulgence which fifty years ago would have been thought an incredible luxury, but which is now shown to be a safe and beneficial recreation.—*Times*.

IMPORTANT INVENTION.—Successful experiments have been made on the Thames near Woolwich Dockyard with some floating lights, the principal object of which is to enable the crew of a boat or vessel to obtain information as to the position of the fleet of an enemy during a period of warfare. The chemical composition which contains the elements of combustion is enclosed in tin, which is provided with tubes, and the tin case is attached to a float of wood. Contact with water causes ignition, and a strong light proceeds from one of the tubes. The apparatus, being attached to a boat or a vessel by means of a rope, will enable those on board to see distinctly at a distance of half a mile; and as a test of durability one of the lights was attached to the *Isard* flag-ship, at half-past ten o'clock on Monday night, and was found burning at five o'clock next morning.

BRIDEWELL BURIAL-GROUND.—A warrant in the *Gazette* orders that the whole of the rubbish which has been deposited in the burial-ground of Bridewell, Blackfriars, be removed, care being taken not to disturb or damage the head or foot stones, or tombs; that the whole surface of the ground be levelled, with the exception of the tombs and graves stones, and be covered with a layer of fresh earth of the thickness of at least a foot; and that the surface be sowed with grass seed, the vegetation be maintained in a proper state, and the surface be never disturbed.

A DISAPPOINTED BRIDE.—Martha Amos, a single woman, domestic servant to a Mr. John Talbot, farmer, of Chetwynd, gave notice of her intention to leave service as she was about to be married. The notice Mrs. Talbot rejected, as Martha had been hired by the year. However, the banns were duly published. On Tuesday week the bridegroom went to Chetwynd to fetch the young woman, when she asked her master to release her. This he would not do; and accordingly she took "French leave." Next morning Mr. Talbot obtained a warrant for her apprehension, which was presented by a constable just as the wedding party was on the point of leaving for church. Dreadful was the consternation, for the policeman was inexorable; and the bride, instead of wending her way to the altar, had to walk in company with the police-officer to a lock-up. She was afterwards taken before a magistrate at Chetwynd, when the following order was made:—£1 abatement of wages, and to return to her situation, there to complete her term of servitude. Poor Martha! Hard-hearted Mr. Talbot! May his docks increase, and his sitting hens prove faithful to the nest!

FOUNDLING OF THE BLENNHEIM.—The *Blenheim* was one of the fine fleet of Indiamen owned by Messrs. Duncan Dunbar and Sons, of Limehouse. She was on her return voyage, and left Akyab on the 7th of June for Calcutta. On the 16th she encountered a fearful gale; and, as it soon became apparent that she would founder, the captain and crew took to the boats, and had scarcely done so when the ship went down. They succeeded in sighting land, and one boat reached shore on the island of Rawree; the other, however, was swamped in the surf which swept the beach, and the captain, second mate, boatswain, cook, and nine men perished. The *Blenheim* was about 700 tons register.

FRENCH FORTIFICATIONS IN THE CHANNEL.—The French Emperor has issued an order for the immediate fortification of the Chaussy Islands. These islands lie between Granville and St. Malo on the one hand, and Jersey on the other. They are little more than mere rocks, some of which are entirely submerged at high water, and offer no footing for any living thing. The principal one is totally destitute of all vegetation except the sparsest herbage. There is a lighthouse upon it, which is useful to the small craft employed in the oyster fishery. The present importance of the Chaussy Islands consists in the shelter which their lee affords as an anchorage in gales of wind. As affording such shelter they were of immense use to the British cruisers blockading Granville and St. Malo during the late war with France. No doubt, therefore, their being fortified has originated in the prospective contingency of a not distant war with England. With our own works at Alderney in progress we have, however, no right to complain of the French fortifying Chaussy.—*Guernsey Star*.

THE NEW PICTURES AT THE FRENCH GALLERY.

A CARD of invitation, politely soliciting our inspection of half a dozen pictures recently added to the French Gallery—the work of a lady artist, with whose name we were not at the time familiar—did not greatly excite our enthusiasm or in any way ruffle our tranquillity. Nevertheless, we obeyed the dictates of courtesy, and took the first convenient opportunity of accepting the invitation. We were repaid for our fancied condescension by the unexpected charm of a “new sensation.” Miss— or rather Mademoiselle Browne (for, in spite of the homely *nom de famille*, the lady is of French parentage and education) is an artist of the very highest order of merit. No sooner had we recovered from our first astonishment at the startling excellence of her pictures than a recollection flashed upon us of having heard, some few months ago, rumours of the apparition of “a bright particular star” of the first magnitude on the artistic horizon of Paris—a star of such dazzling brilliancy as to operate on the susceptible brains of our gallant allies with something approaching to the force of a *coup de soleil*. The new-found celebrity we remembered was of the gentler sex, and it now occurred to us that her name was Browne. Mademoiselle Henriette Browne was the *lionne, par excellence*, of the last French season. She has been the toast, the wonder, and the glory of our volatile neighbours, who are not yet weary of committing extravagances in her praise. Her great picture (of which more anon) was considered of such national importance that the astute Emperor thought it sound policy to purchase it for the nation. Not by the vulgar device of presentation, though. The liberator of Italy is too sound a man of business to descend to so unprofitable an expedient. The picture was made the grand prize in a national lottery, established by his Imperial Majesty for the encouragement of the fine arts, at the modest figure of a franc per share. Such was the enthusiasm excited by the event that the members of the Bourse alone subscribed for the purchase of 10,000 shares among them. One of these shares obtained the grand prize, “The Sisters of Mercy,” which, with five minor specimens by the same artist, has just arrived in London to test the graver, and perhaps more searching, ordeal of English criticism.

“The Sisters of Mercy” is a composition of three figures, the size of life, telling a very plain story. A nun in the foreground has a sick child in her lap. Another in the background is compounding medicines. That is all; but the reality of the characters, of the attitudes, the objects, the textures, and (this is really remarkable in a French artist) of the *colours*, is indescribable and not easily conceivable. The nuns are such genuine nuns—fat-faced, cleanly, benign, tranquil, and dutiful, with not a single care on their own account: all their wants, temporal and spiritual, are provided for. They have but to tend sick people, say their prayers, attend mass, eat, drink, and fast, at properly regulated intervals, and die in peace. The sick child is a beautiful, limbed, intellectual boy, prostrated for a time by fever, which you can see his vigorous physical nature is fighting against manfully. The anatomy is perfect; finer modelling and *impasto* could not be conceived. As a mere representation of still-life objects the picture would be a wonder. The blanket the boy is lying on might be exhibited as a *tour de force* of realism, calculated to strike envy to the hearts of our cleverest Pre-Raphaelites.

The accompanying pictures are “A Portrait” (the fair artist’s father, we are given to understand), a life-sized picture, combining all the force of our own Knight with the softness of Ary Scheffer, and certainly equal to the best specimens of either artist; “Puritan Maidens leading the Scriptures,” “The Nurse,” “The Hospital Laboratory,” and “The Toilet.” The two last named are cabinet pictures, perfect gems in their way—“The Toilet” especially. The subject of this is a simple rustic interior, peopled by two little figures, a small girl dressing a small brother. There is a mixture of the tender and the ludicrous in this diminutive group that is indescribably charming. The little girl is a genuine embryo Frenchwoman—lusty, active, and businesslike in the extreme. There is an earnestness almost amounting to ferocity with which she is endeavouring



“GOOD NEWS.”—(FROM THE PICTURE, BY HENSZELI, IN THE ART-UNION EXHIBITION.)

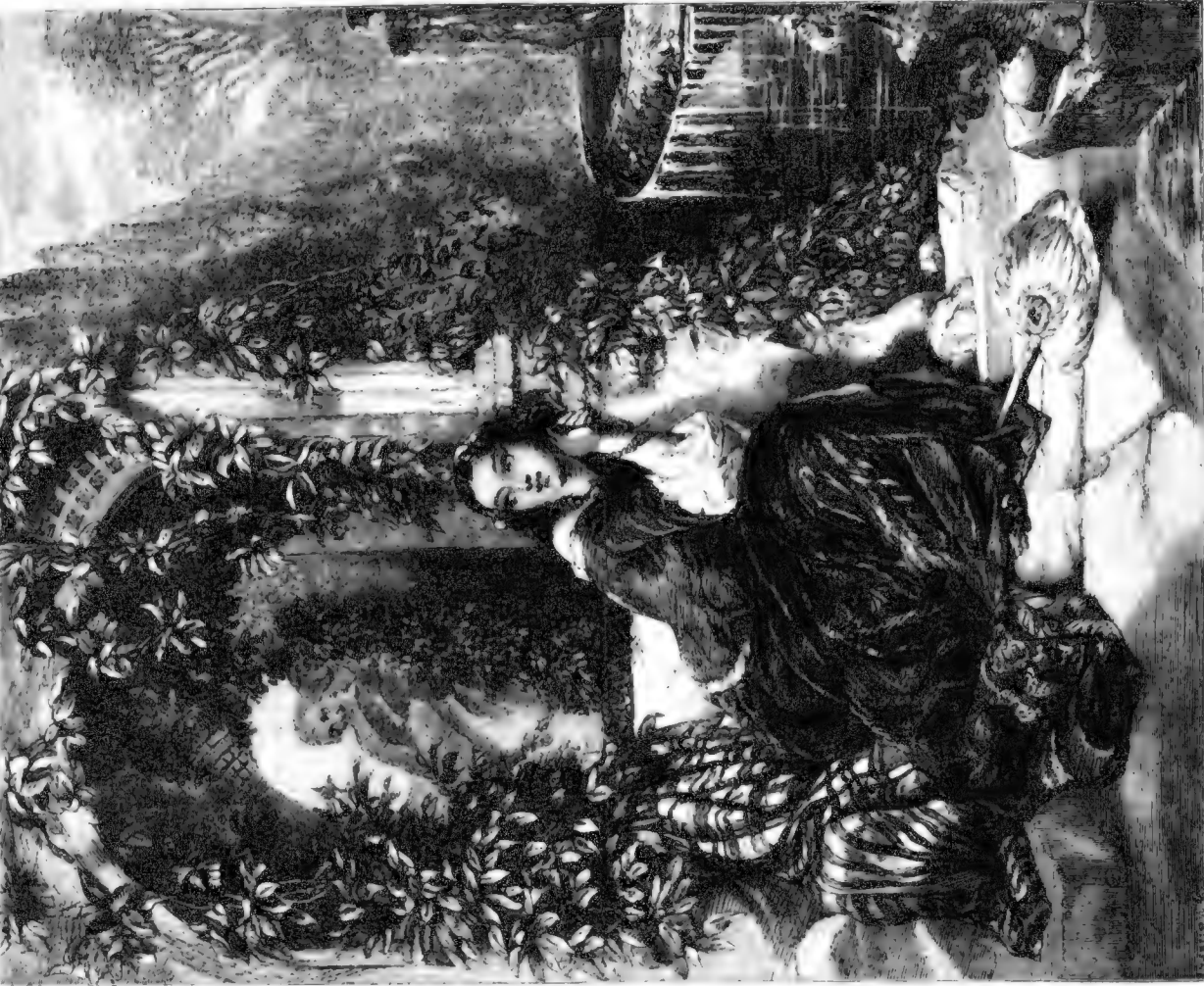
“BEATRICE LISTENING IN THE BOWER,” AND “GOOD NEWS.”

THESE two Engravings are specimens of two illustrations to the “Catalogue of the London Art-Union Exhibition”—an unpretending publication, happily combining the useful with the ornamental, and setting an example which the directors of other art-institutions would do well to follow. Old catalogues are at times very serviceable to the art-connoisseur or critic. But the purely dry statistic character of these official records is generally such as to preclude all desire for their preservation. When wanted for purposes of reference they are never to be found. They have either been torn up or consigned to some chaotic limbo of waste paper—to unearth the hidden treasures of which would exhaust the patience of a Layard. The directors of the London Art-Union have conceived the felicitous plan of giving their annual catalogue a permanent value by enriching its pages with engraved copies of some of the most attractive works in their exhibition for the current year. How effectually the design has been carried out the annexed specimens of high-class wood-engraving will amply testify. Four page-cuts of these dimensions and quality, printed on good stiff paper, are given with each catalogue, the cost of

which, being only sixpence, leaves the most parsimonious visitor little reason to complain of the price he has had to pay for his official information.

Of the pictures themselves (one by Mr. Woolmer, the other by Mr. Henszeli) little need be said. They may be left to tell their own simple stories. Their companionship is purely accidental, but (in illustration, it may be, of the mysterious law of affinity which commands the association of corks in a water-butt, or the no less proverbial congregation of “birds of a feather”) they have certain points of interest in common. Both are based on that most delightful but unfortunately not too frequent human expression, the hearing of “good news.” Mr. Henszeli has chosen to interest us in an imaginary pair of laughing peasant girls whose hearts are being cheered by glad tidings of an unexpected character, conveyed through the legitimate medium of the post-office.

Mr. Woolmer illustrates the subject by the garden scene from “Much Ado About Nothing,” when Beatrice overhears the “good news” (not true, by-the-way, but answering every purpose of the strictest veracity) of the conquest by her own charms, of the obdurate misogynist Benedick, thereby triumphantly refuting the proverb that “Listeners never hear any good of themselves.”



“BEATRICE LISTENING IN THE BOWER.”—(FROM THE PICTURE, BY WOOLMER, IN THE ART-UNION EXHIBITION.)

to wrench an obstinate button into subjection terribly prophetic of sharp practice behind a *compoir* or uncomprophetic of hard bargains in the matter of farm produce, such as Frenchwomen of business alone know how to enforce. The boy is a glorious boy—an apple-faced, stolid, huge-feeding, wide-trousered boy—a boy who, we know, must be constantly falling into ditches, and waiting for his sister to pick him out of them—a boy who can as yet do nothing for himself, not even tuck in his linen properly! But an amiable boy notwithstanding, who believes in his clever spiffire sister, and will reward her for all her anxieties some day by fighting her battles for her—a young bear, in fact, with all his troubles to come, unlicked and shapless. His baggy black stockings alone are a priceless study!

The only picture in the series descending in the scale towards mediocrity is “The Puritan Maidens.” But there are fine technical points in this even, though the subject is comparatively tame. Altogether the collection is one which we can most heartily recommend our readers to seize the earliest opportunity of visiting.

The bulk of the pictures forming the French Exhibition, we are given to understand, will be removed in the course of the present week. Mdlle. Browne’s paintings, with a few others, will remain for some weeks longer. In themselves

these remarkable works would form a most attractive exhibition; but, in order that the lover of “quantity” may not go away dissatisfied, the directors of the institution have provided an accessory pictorial entertainment, by no means devoid of interest, consisting of one hundred drawings in water colours, from the pictures of her Majesty and the Prince Consort, originally executed for the purpose of engraving in the *Art-Journal*. Some of them are triumphs of faithful imitation, and the majority are well worthy of careful inspection.

A RAILWAY FOR SHIPS.—The success of the ship-lifting apparatus at the Victoria Docks has led to a proposal that the problem regarding the Stuez passage should be solved by the abandonment of the canal scheme and the construction of a ship railway between the two seas. According to the view of the projectors, rivers of rising would be erected at each port, vessels would be lifted and lowered by hydraulic power, the transit would be effected in cradles resting on five lines of railway, any one of which would be available for ordinary traffic, and a speed of twenty miles an hour could be anticipated. The estimated cost would be £800,000 against the £6,400,000 demanded by Mr. de Lesseps, which many engineers assert would be swollen to £74,000,000.

THE NAVAL OF THE CATHEDRAL AT Exeter has been appointed for afternoon service on Sundays.



"BARON MUNCHAUSEN RELATING HIS ADVENTURES."—(FROM A PICTURE BY JOHANN GEYER.)

BARON MUNCHAUSEN RELATING HIS ADVENTURES.

EVEN the renowned Baron Munchausen—before whose invincible blade no foe could stand alive for a moment—even the Baron was unable to save himself from his friends. His English editor has done him a gross injustice. On the titlepage of the translation of the Baron's veracious autobiography, with which we have been familiar from our childhood, occurs the damaging statement that the surprising adventures contained in the work are given as narrated by the Baron himself "over a bottle." What has this unfounded calumny led to? To an all but universal impression that the extraordinary, and in many cases (we admit) not easily credible, incidents of the Baron's eventful career were the mere inventions of a heated imagination, acting in the absence of a restraining conscience. Herr Johann Geyer, the celebrated German painter—who, as the Baron's countryman, and doubtless also his admirer, must be accepted as an indisputable authority on the subject

—represents the case in a very different light. He has considered the incident of "Baron Munchausen Relating his Adventures" worthy of historic honours, and has accordingly made it the subject of a large picture, from which we publish an Engraving. Of course, a painter like Herr Johann Geyer, with a great reputation at stake, in treating a subject of such national importance, would be scrupulously careful to realise the scene, as nearly as possible, as it occurred. We may therefore rely upon his representation being substantially a correct one. From it we learn, with mingled feelings of relief and indignation, that the Baron related his adventures not "over a bottle"—as we have seen asserted, and to a clubhouse or tavern auditory, as might thence be inferred—but to a refined and elegant circle of his equals in the social scale, and *over a cup of coffee!* Under such circumstances, and in such society, is it at all probable that the Baron would have been "guilty of exceeding" the limits of veracity? Depend upon it, the adventures of Baron Munchausen—surprising as they may seem—were

of actual occurrence. It is a novel theory, we admit, and one that will take time to establish. What then? Columbus was disbelieved at first. Abyssinian Bruce was regarded as a shameless imposter down to the second quarter of the present century. The fame of Baron Munchausen can afford to share a little probationary odium in such good company.

Herr Johann Geyer is a German painter of the genre school, whose works deserve to be better known than they are in this country. The picture under notice is a very fair specimen of his powers of composition, drawing, and nice perception of character. The only serious objection that can be made to it is that it treats, rather too much in a spirit of high comedy, a subject that has no business to be removed from the wildest regions of burlesque. The Herr's "Munchausen" might pass muster for a genuine nobleman of Frederick the Great's camp, retailing Voltaire's last witticism to an appreciating audience composed of statesmen and *dames de la cour*.

Literature.

The Fool of Quality. By HENRY BROOKE, Esq. A New and Revised Edition, with a Biographical Preface, by the Rev. Charles Kingsley, M.A. Smith, Elder, and Co.

It is a curious fate for a work of fiction not avowedly and explicitly theological in its bent to be twice edited and recommended by ministers of religion. It is still more curious that the two editors should be men as dissimilar as John Wesley and Charles Kingsley. Yet, under the name of "The History of Henry, Earl of Moreland," edited and recommended by Wesley, this book is probably not unknown to any one of our readers. We ourselves remember it in our boyhood, and it has turned up on humble bookshelves several times in our later experience. Always we thought it tedious, but here it is once more in a new dress, with large pretensions made for it in the most intolerably silly preface it was ever our misery to read. What has happened to our "golden-hearted" Charles Kingsley? We knew him of old—rash, flippant, blustering, and cloudy. His very last novel showed an ominous loss of self-control in the writer; but this preface is—we say it very deliberately—one of the worst bits of composition ever printed. It is a great pity Mr. Carlyle set the fashion of Enthusiastic Biography. Every memoir we get nowadays is stilted beyond endurance; and if the points of moral judgment involved in some of the best of them were pieced together into a system by a competent hand, the world would stand aghast at the confusion of tongues among its accredited teachers. "Is this party 'noble' and 'grand' in this portion of his life and character? Why, I thought the other party was 'noble' and 'grand' in that portion of his life and character? They cannot both be all that, because they are opposites. Please, Mr. Showman, what is what, for I'm bewildered." Popularly, the answer to this appeal lies, we believe, in the word "development"—or more abstrusely, the "individuality of the individuality"—phrases which satisfy, or seem to satisfy, the "general reader," who is commonly a very "general" thinker. But, in stern logic, it is very plain that we must either have an absolute standard of character or we must not. If there be such a thing, then three-fourths of our biographic criticism is playing the fool with vital truth. Let us understand, that is all. Everybody cannot be a hero or a heroine; and it is too plain that we are all in a muddle, and have only made up our mind upon even the most elementary questions of right and wrong, when the natural love of power which we all so easily mistake for righteous zeal makes us anxious to impose a standard upon somebody else. As an illustration of the pass of confusion to which we have come we will mention one fact. Not long ago our leading weekly "Review" stated in a notice of the life of Grace Dalrymple Elliott, within the same half dozen sentences, that she had been the mistress of two exalted personages, and that her diary was creditable to her sense, goodness of heart, and religious feeling. Conceive this read by Paterfamilias on Sunday morning while the girls are dressing for church! Mr. Kingsley has done more than any man of his time to get us into a moral muddle. Never was scheme of the world so incongruous as his, and he cannot but have some remorseful sense of it. Inevitably he must know that the image of unconscious goodness which he sets up in one page is knocked down in the next by the image of virtue obedient to law, which implies consciousness. Inevitably he must know that to do right with intent is the Christian teaching; and that that is not the teaching of the bulk of his books, nor what the leaning of his mind takes him to. Inevitably he must know that there is no pugilism to be found in the New Testament, and that the Apostle John would have summed up the staple of his books as "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life." But he does not hesitate to take another step forward into chaos for himself and his readers, by publishing, with a bewildering preface of frantic praise and silly apology, this monstrous and bewildering book. True, it is so far like "Yeast" that it contains fustian and Platonism, and church catechism, and an educated gentleman who does porter's work (like Lancelot Smith); but, as to getting any consistent scheme of life out of it, the reader had far better try his hand at squaring the circle, or the Number of the Beast, and, so employed, will stand the less chance of losing his reason.

Henry Brooke, the author of "The Fool of Quality," was a warm-hearted and accomplished Irishman, who died in 1783, after an affectionate and earnest life, embracing friendships with Pope, Chatham, and other illustrious ones, and not without its laurels gathered here and there. He was, undoubtedly, a man of fine intelligence, and in advance not only of his age but of every age,—perhaps of every possible age. His "Fool of Quality" is a sort of mixture of "Sandford and Merton" and Mackenzie's "Man of Feeling," largely interspersed with ethical, æsthetic, and theological discussions, which, indeed, constitute by far the best part of the book. Mr. Kingsley is welcome to the broadest admission of the wisdom, tenderness, and courage which inspire so many pages of this pet of his; but he provokes his reader beyond all bounds by fencing upon the question of the general verdict to be given upon the work. Is "The Fool of Quality" a good or bad book? We say it is a very bad book, with very great merits. Of the quality of the narrative we will give a taste by partly abstracting one of the episodes.

Hammel Clement was the son of a tradesman, who gave him a liberal education, and turned him adrift because he was studious. Roaming about London, without destination or occupation, he saved one Mrs. Graves (a milliner) from a ruffian, and got shot in the arm, which laid him on his back with fever, during which he was nursed by Mrs. Graves in the most motherly way, "at the sign of the Fan and Ruffie, in Fleet-street." Waking up one day from a fit of insensibility, Hammel discovered Mrs. Graves's niece, the lovely Arabella, "daughter of the late Reverend Mr. Graves, of Putney," at his bedside; and, naturally enough, said, "Tell me, fair creature, on what world am I thrown?" He fell in love with Arabella, and, with the remnant of his means, saved her aunt and her from the misery of having an execution put into the house. Mrs. Graves (to whom he had related his history—all the characters relate their "histories") now went to Hammel's father, to expostulate with him for his unnatural behaviour to his son, but was shown the door by the father, whose second wife "appeared to be far advanced in pregnancy"—though why that circumstance is mentioned does not appear. Hammel now got into the employ of Wellcott, a bookseller, on Tower-hill; and, earning about thirty guineas a week at pamphleteering on political subjects, he was encouraged to marry Arabella, "in the presence of the Miss Hodginses and two or three neighbours." Soon after this, however, he was asked "by a genteel-looking person" if his name was Clement, and was by him arrested for a seditious libel and carried to Newgate. Arabella and aunt sold off everything, shut up the shop, went to Lord Stivers, and got Hammel out of prison. In five months the poor aunt died of jaundice, and Arabella "immediately fainted away upon the body." But Lord Stivers now came to Hammel to get him to write more pamphlets, on the other side this time, which he did. (Here the author discourses at large of liberty in its various kinds.) But my lord wanting to buy Arabella of her husband, and he declining the bargain, the unlucky boy was put into prison again, in order that his Lordship might have time to attack the lady, unchecked by Hammel's presence. Soon Lord Stivers lay "weltering in his blood," deprived of life by the gentle Arabella, who was now in her turn arrested, and for murder, but not without a vigorous attempt at rescue on the part of Hammel, who, with the poker, aimed a blow at "the most active and jocular" of the officers, which "missed the crown of his head, but tore off one ear, and cut him through his clothes and shoulder to the bone." At the trial Arabella was saved through a witness, who gave his evidence "with somewhat of a severe and sarcastical tone;" and, being triumphantly acquitted, the lady curseyed to the foreman and the rest of the jury, saying, "I thank ye, gentlemen;" while the husband "caught the witness eagerly about the neck and held him fast." Hammel then took to highway robbery, porter's work, and tramping; and was at last saved by a benevolent personage who found him, his wife, and babe, at the last gasp for food, by the roadside. There is not a page of the narrative which is a whit less ex-

travagant than this, and it winds up with the marriage of the "Fool of Quality" to Abenaide, daughter of the Emperor of Morocco.

Mr. Kingsley will be disappointed with the reception this book will have. The dullest person can see its monstrous faults, whilst it requires considerable cultivation and a rare temperament to seize its noble points. We do not challenge the "Fool" for "quixotic morality" (as the editor fears so many will do)—far, far from it; but we do challenge it for moral incongruity, over and above its other faults; and we think its reissue under the patronage of the author of "Yeast" will just tend to one knot more in the puzzle in which too many of those who may read it already find themselves as to necessary principles of action.

Shelley Memorials. From Authentic Sources. Edited by Lady SHELLEY. To which is added an *Essay on Christianity.* By PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY. (Now first printed.) Smith, Elder, and Co.

The publication of Miss Parkes's poem of "Gabriel" was the signal for the beginning of a new Shelley literature, of which we hope this is the last specimen, until some one with something really new to say comes forward to say it. What is fresh in the present volume relates almost exclusively to the first and the second Mrs. Shelley. Of both ladies, especially of the second, our good opinion is greatly heightened by these memorials. Upon the dark passages in Shelley's life no light whatever is thrown by Lady Shelley, though she refers to family papers which might clear up doubts, and which, we suppose, she holds back because one of the poet's children by his first wife is still living. Upon the whole, perhaps, we are better without further information. Let us learn a lesson in tolerance, and, without saying that right is wrong, let the conspicuous nobleness of a life taken in the mass, our respect for "that great Mystery of a PERSON," and our consciousness of our own complicated blunders of conduct, weigh with us to soften down vulgar curiosity into a tender patience with those inscrutable tangles in the career of others which will now and then present themselves. One very melancholy fact, which was hitherto only to be gathered by a comparison of dates, Lady Shelley states plainly—namely, that when the separation between Harriet and her husband took place she was within a few months of becoming a second time a mother. It was a miserable business, the act of a boy and girl; and what wrong there was in it was bitterly expiated on both sides.

Captain Medwin's "Life" still remains, with all its shortcomings, the best complete memoir of Shelley yet given to the world. It is much to be regretted (if anything be regrettable) that Lady Shelley withdrew the family papers from Mr. Hogg. The two volumes of his editing issued by Mr. Moxon had faults of occasional coarseness and flippancy, but Mr. Hogg brought to his task an amount of intelligence and fairness that no other of the Shelley biographers can for a moment pretend to.

The "Essay on Christianity" is, considered as controversial writing, beneath contempt in everything but its pure and lofty tone of goodness. Mary, however, with much more self-distrust than Percy, was a very clear, sound, direct thinker. We extract a pregnant passage from her diary in 1838:—

A WOMAN'S APOLOGY FOR BEING OF NO PARTY.

I have been so often abused by pretended friends for my lukewarmness in "the good cause," that, though I disdain to answer them, I shall put down here a few thoughts on this subject. . . . I have never written a word in disfavour of liberalism: that I have not supported it openly in writing arises from the following causes, as far as I know:—That I have not argumentative powers; I see things pretty clearly, but cannot demonstrate them; besides, I feel the counter-arguments too strongly. I do not feel that I could say aught to support the cause efficiently; besides that, on some topics (especially with regard to my own sex) I am far from making up my mind. . . . When I feel that I can say what will benefit my fellow-creatures I will speak: not before. Then I recoil from the vulgar abuse of the inimical press; I do more than recoil: proud and sensitive, I act on the defensive—an inglorious position. To hang back, as I do, brings a penalty. . . . Alone and poor, I could only be something by joining a party; and there was much in me—the woman's love of looking up, and being guided, and being willing to do anything if any one supported and brought me forward—which would have made me a good partisan. But Shelley died and I was alone. . . . If I had raved and ranted about what I did not understand; had I adopted a set of opinions, and propagated them with enthusiasm; had I been careless of attack, and eager for notoriety; then the party to which I belonged had gathered round me, and I had not been alone. It has been the fashion with these same friends to accuse me of worldliness. There indeed, in my own heart and conscience, I take a high ground. I may distrust my own judgment too much—be too indolent and too timid; but in conduct I am above merited blame.

We profoundly respect the dignity of character which refused these explanations (abbreviated by ourselves) to the howling mob of "friends," and left them to take their chance of finding the light. So deeply do we learn to love and admire poor Mary, that, before we close this book, our pity for the first unfortunate is almost drowned in compassion for the second.

OPERA, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

The operatic news of the present week consists of rumours of coming operatic events. It is said that, after their provincial tour, and after the festivals—at which Mdle. Titiens is engaged—Mr. Smith's company will return to Drury Lane, and give a series of autumnal performances. Covent Garden will be opened for English opera, under the direction of Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. Harrison, early in October. One of the first works produced will be Meyerbeer's "Pardon de Ploërmel," of which an English version has been prepared by Mr. H. F. Chorley. The part of Dinorah will, of course, be undertaken by Miss Louisa Pyne, to whose brilliant talent it is admirably suited. Mr. Harrison will be rather a massive Corentin, but he is to assume that character; and, after all, it would not be advisable to entrust it to the second tenor of the establishment, whoever that gentleman may be. As Hoel Mr. Santley will make his début. This is really good news. Mr. Santley is by far the best of our English baritones (we suppose he is a baritone as he is to sing the music of Hoel, though he passes generally for a bass), and it would be a misfortune if he were to confine the exercise of his talent to concert-rooms and music-halls. With Mr. Alfred Mellon's orchestra, formed for the most part out of Mr. Costa's, with the scenery and decorations of the Royal Italian Opera, and with the singers we have just named in the principal parts, the management of the Royal English Opera will be able to produce Meyerbeer's charming work in admirable style. We may safely say beforehand that no opera of Meyerbeer will have been so efficiently represented in English before. We have not heard whether Meyerbeer's additional music will be retained in the English version, but we suppose that, as it was written expressly for the Royal Italian Opera, it will not. Let us hope, too, that the new recitatives will be omitted. However excellent in themselves, they retard in a lamentable manner the action of the piece, which, even in the first instance, was too long in proportion to its substance. An English audience has never yet consented to tolerate an utterly uninteresting and unnecessarily spun-out story for the sake of the music, however beautiful the latter might be. In the course of the season two new operas will be brought out. The first of these will, we believe (and hope), be Mr. Vincent Wallace's "Loreley," which will probably be given immediately after the "Pardon de Ploërmel." The "Rip Van Winkle," by the American composer, Mr. Bristow, is also to be played. It was rehearsed several times last season, and we imagine that it must even now be "nearly ready," as the booksellers say. Mr. Bristow, American as he is, is at the same time a pupil of Mr. Macfarren, so that we must not look for any characteristic Yankee music in his score. Indeed, it is not possible that a parvenu country like America, without naïveté, without traditions, and with a peasant-class as unpoetical as it is well-informed, can have national music—by which we, of course, do not mean mere patriotic airs. The United States have their bigger melodies, it is true, but Mr. Bristow's is not to be a "black opera." Among the new engagements with singers effected by the management of the Royal English Opera we may mention one with Mademoiselle Parepa, who will appear, it is said, as Leonora in the "Trovatore." As Mdle.

Parepa (who, through one of her parents, is of English origin) speaks our language perfectly, the same inconvenience will not attach to her performances which is usually felt when a foreign vocalist has to sing English words. It will be remembered that Mdle. Parepa made her début at the Royal Italian Opera in the part of Elvira in the "Puritani" when Mr. Gye's troupe had made the Lyceum its temporary refuge after the great fire. After the rebuilding of Covent Garden Mdle. Parepa appeared at the new theatre as the heroine (we forget her name) in "Zampa." Since then this lady has been singing at Madrid and elsewhere with great success. Independently of the fact that, when both are good, two sopranos are better than one, we rejoice at the engagement of Mdle. Parepa, because we may congratulate Miss Pyne, the public, and, above all, ourselves, on the probability of our most perfect vocalist not destroying her voice, as she threatened to do last season by singing night after night, whether she happened to be well or ill.

"On l'opéra va-t-il se réchauffer?" For the present it is to be found at Canterbury Hall, where the first and fourth acts of "Macbeth" (that is to say Verdi's "Macbeth") are nightly performed, and with remarkable success. The fourth act, which contains the most popular piece in the opera—the air sung by Macbeth when "fortune has abandoned him" and he is about to fall beneath the avenging sword of Macduff—was given but recently for the first time, and we have not yet heard it. But we were present one evening at a performance of the first act, and found the execution highly creditable. In this act the most remarkable music is that of the witches, which is fantastic and weird-like, and recalls to some extent the effective legendary chorus of the opening scene in the "Trovatore;" the scene of Lady Macbeth in which we could recognise the composer's intention to produce something grand but missed the grandeur; and the thoroughly Veridian concerted piece in which Macbeth and wife, with their friends and retainers, express (in unison) their horror at the murder Macbeth and wife have just committed. This forms the first finale. It is written in the composer's well-known explosive style (which would be more effective if M. Verdi would resort to it less frequently), and on the whole is a good specimen of his manner of working up effects. The principal characters, the subordinates, and the chorists sing their parts very respectably. There is no orchestra; but a skilful accompanist does his best to replace the band by a harmonium; and, though the performance of "Macbeth" at the Canterbury Hall is not faultless, it cannot be denied that it serves to give a fair idea of an opera which has a certain reputation in Italy, and which in England was, until within the last few weeks, utterly unknown.

The only concert of interest that has recently taken place is the last Saturday Concert at the Crystal Palace. Here the great attraction was Mdle. Artôt, who sang, 1, the scena from the "Prophète," "O mon fils;" 2, Rode's air, with variations; and 3—Rode's air having been loudly encored—the brindisi from "Lucrezia Borgia," Mdle. Artôt accompanying the last air herself. The accomplished vocalist gave each of the above pieces—so different in character—with admirable effect, and was immensely applauded. Madame Bishop sang two or three airs. Mr. Sims Reeves was absent. Mdle. Sophie Humier played a solo on the violin—very well for a young lady, but not well in an absolute sense.

1. *They must not know I love thee.* Words by JESSICA RANKIN, Music by WALTER MAYNARD. 2. *Muriel.* By GEORGE LINLEY. 3. *Little Sophy.* By GEORGE LINLEY. 4. *Persian Serenade for the Pianoforte.* By E. SILAS. Cramer, Beale, and Chappell.

1. They must not know that the singer loves a certain person; and, "though they breathe his praises till blushes dye her cheek, she will not join the welcome theme, for fear her heart should speak." Miss Jessica Rankin's verses are nicely written, and, what is still more extraordinary, have meaning. They are also well suited to music, and Mr. Walter Maynard (the composer of "Rizzio," "Macbeth," and other dramatic scenes already noticed in these columns) has taken advantage of that fact to set them to a very graceful melody.

2 and 3. Mr. George Linley has taken to illustrating novels, not with pictures, but with appropriate music. "Muriel" is a ballad from "John Halifax, Gentleman," and is inscribed to the author of that deservedly popular work. "Little Sophy" is a ballad from "What will he do with it?" and is dedicated to Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton. The latter air is sung by Mr. Santley. Both pieces are quite worthy of Mr. Linley's facile and agreeable talent.

4. Mr. Silas's "Persian Serenade" is an easy pianoforte piece, founded on a quaint and charming melody in the Persian or, at all events, in the Oriental style.

1. *The Operatic Album.* 2. *Wölfl's Ne Plus Ultra.* Boosey and Sons.

1. "The Operatic Album" is a well-illustrated, handsomely-bound collection of airs and concerted pieces, to the number of a hundred, from the "Traviata," the "Trovatore," the "Rigoletto," "Ernani," "Luisa Miller," the "Vêpres Siciliennes," "Martha," the "Sonnambula," "Norma," the "Puritani," "Don Pasquale," "Lucrezia," "Lucia," "Linda," the "Elisir," the "Fille du Régiment," "Robert," and the "Huguenots." The various pieces have been written for the piano with care and intelligence, and without any of that ludicrous vanity which prompts many transcribers to distort melodies under pretence of "arranging" them. The themes, too, have been very judiciously selected.

2. We are afraid to publish any more the story about "Wölfl's 'Ne Plus Ultra,' and Dussek's 'Plus Ultra,'" which, however, is sure to reappear in the columns of some of our contemporaries the next time Miss Arabella Goddard performs either of those pieces in public. We suppose every one who goes to concerts has heard Miss Goddard play the "Ne Plus Ultra," perhaps even the "Ne Plus" and the "Plus" on the same occasion. The former of these sonatas has just been issued in a new form, under the auspices of Mr. J. W. Davison, who contributes a very interesting preface concerning the musical period during which Wölfl flourished, the circumstance under which the "Ne Plus Ultra" was produced, its past and present significance, &c.

Royal Wedding March. By GIACOMO MEYERBEER. Duncan Davison.

This is the fourth of the celebrated "Marche aux Flambeaux." The first was composed, we believe, for the marriage of the Emperor of Austria with the lady who at present graces his throne—a phrase to which we are driven by our complete ignorance as to the maiden name. The last, which is the best of the four, was written in honour of the union of the Princess Royal to Prince Frederick William of Prussia. It is melodious, original, strikingly effective, and not difficult as a pianoforte piece. In its orchestral form "The Torch March" has been heard several times this year at the Crystal Palace.

A MUSICAL PARROT.—"In 1841," says the *Revue et Gazette Musicale*, "Prince Albert presented to Queen Victoria a parrot that had cost him £40. It could sing, amongst other airs, that of 'The Flag that braved a thousand years,' and the national song of 'Jim Crow' (?) Whenever it saw a person take a glass of wine it lifted one leg and struck up 'God save the Queen!'"

THE QUEEN IN JERSEY.—The Queen paid a flying visit to this island on Saturday. The Royal party landed in boats at the Victoria pier, a structure of solid granite, inclosing one side of the harbour, a quarter of a mile in length, and were received by "the States," the military authorities, and a vast concourse of people. After making a circuit of the principal streets, the Queen proceeded to the New Victoria College, where she was received by the Principal (Dr. Henderson), the Bishop of Winchester (who happens to be visiting this distant part of his diocese), and the principal inhabitants. After writing her name on a piece of paper (no book could be found in the hurry of the moment), the Queen and Royal party departed, made another circuit of the town, and re-embarked. Sir George Lewis, the Home Secretary, was in attendance on the Queen.

A SHIP has just been seized at New Bedford by the revenue officers of the United States for being fitted out for the slave trade. She was ostensibly a whaler, but on examination she was found to be freighted with the provisions and water requisite on a slave voyage, and to be wanting altogether in whaling apparatus.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE criminal annals of the last few weeks have been replete with cases of a peculiarly revolting character. We have already recorded the case of the two rural labourers who, reeking with the fumes of "jerry-shop" beer and tobacco, sallied forth, and beat in the brains of an inoffensive old man for a few shillings. This case had its counterpart, as such cases usually have, in one of a precisely similar character near Leeds. Scarcely a daily journal can now be taken in hand which does not contain the records of a rural murderer—murder, not delicate, artful, or scientific, as by the insidious poisoner or the wily assassin, but most downright, simple, barbarous, and brutal. The appearance of this class of crime, in so many instances just at this period, may certainly be accounted for, in some measure, by the fact that her Majesty's Judges are now engaged upon the summer circuit, and disposing of all the great criminal cases standing over since last spring in the provinces, the minor felonies having been already dealt with by the local sessions. Still, with every allowance for this cause, it may reasonably be inquired why the English peasant, descending to crime, should perpetrate such acts of stolid brutality as might only be expected from the most degraded savage? One Ellen Rutter has offered an hypothesis upon the subject, and hers may possibly be correct, as, although unknown in the fields of literary, psychological, or political study, she has obtained some experience in the matter by cutting her husband's throat. And Ellen says "It's the beer." The deceased Mr. Rutter was an inhabitant of Dursley, in the county of Gloucester. Mr. and Mrs. Rutter were both among the best customers of the beer-shop. All their social moments appear to have been spent in this convivial haunt. When at home their convivial felicity was less perfect. Mr. Rutter, drunk, locked out from his home by his no less beer-sodden wife, would effect his entry by smashing his windows, and complete his evening's enjoyment by kicking his wife, half naked, down the Dursley-road. For this and similar amenities Mrs. Rutter made no secret of her intention of murdering her spouse, or of the means by which she proposed to carry out her purpose. The happy pair met on the fatal night at the beer-shop as usual. Mrs. Rutter was there comporting herself, as they say in the country, "very free," sitting between two muddled louts, lighting the pipe of one, pouring out beer for the other, and taking the usual measures to induce her own bestial intoxication. Mr. Rutter, with some vague idea of a husband's rights, expressed his glimmering of an idea that these little attentions might with more propriety be bestowed on himself, but nevertheless offered to dispose of all imaginary claim thereto and to his wife generally for half-a-crown, the price of ten pots of beer. The proposal was not accepted, and Mr. Rutter, being the first of the couple to get stupidly drunk, reeled off to bed. Mrs. Rutter remained until, having also drunk herself blind to every moral sense, she in turn staggered home, accompanied by a female friend, mildly protesting against the propriety of severing her husband's windpipe. Soon after her arrival at home the deed was consummated. Mr. Rutter was lying in bed gashed across the throat, cut across the skull, and bleeding by the gallon. Mrs. Rutter was wandering about, now closing the blood-stained razor, now pressing a pillow to the ghastly wounds of her husband, now making a shallow pretence of his suicide, and again, when interrogated by horror-stricken neighbours, replying "I done it!" The witnesses, with some beery ideas as to evidence, keep the wretched creature in her garments stiffened with gore throughout the night until the morning, when she lays the reproach on the beer. So Ellen is tried, and in due form sentenced to be hanged, for the moral improvement of the country. All which, to Pharisees and such estimable folk, must appear very extraordinary and repugnant to polite manners and customs. But to another not less numerous class the wonder may be that such things are not more frequent. How in the world are ignorant bores, destitute even of the knowledge of reading and writing, living in a remote district, with no sort of religious teaching in any way appealing to their hearts or intellects, to amuse themselves at Dursley, Gloucestershire, but in the society of their kind? How is this to be obtained but at the beer-shop, or at any price but that of swallowing the maddening compound of villainous drugs dispensed by the no less ignorant adulterator, who finds his sole living in the intoxication of his customers? Such are matters to be pondered over, and, moreover, to be met, not in the columns of a newspaper, but by Christian philanthropists content with more homely missions than those of Tasmania and Otaheite.

"License of counsel" is perhaps an excellent institution under certain circumstances. But it is a strange thing to see counsel following such an example as that set by Mr. Justice Blackburn in the case of "Redhead v. Rich." The details of the trial would possibly neither be instructive nor pleasant to our readers, and we therefore refrain from giving them. The learned Judge called the plaintiff "a prostitute," and the defendant "an old fool." Mr. Hawkins, Q.C., who had the honour of representing the defendant, echoed his Lordship, and spoke of his client as "this old fool," which must have been highly pleasant to the elderly person who paid Mr. Hawkins's fee. Before Chief Justice Erie, Mr. Serjeant Hayes, in a somewhat similar case, designated his own client as an "asthmatical coal-merchant;" and we are told that the learned Judge, in summing up, agreed in a great measure (perhaps a coal measure) with the remarks made by Serjeant Hayes. If comic entertainment-mongers only had an appreciation of the humorous in actual life, what a capital speech of counsel might be compiled without overstraining the limits of propriety as recognised by the bar! For the entertainment of those curious in such matters we append a sample of the correspondence addressed by the "asthmatical coal-merchant" to his lady love, after their quarrel:—"Mrs. Deavis, I hope you will keep your life at home and not come to No. 2, Packington-place (the defendant's residence) to abuse my wife, I wish I had been at home I would kicked you into the street. You fauls old hypocrite tremble! for the day of your redemption droweth nie. O ye hypocrite ye can discern the face of the sky and can ye not discern the signs of the times? You wicked hoats—children of Old Harrey!—R.W."

It seems that the rural districts lay in for their share of those brutal outrages which so frequently cast a shade over the popularity of the police force.

The following facts were last week adduced in evidence at the Pontblyddyn Petty Sessions on the prosecution of a policeman for assault. The prosecutor, George Evans, was returning home about half-past ten o'clock a few nights previously, when he was accosted by the policeman with "What are you doing out this time of night?" Prosecutor replied, "What is that to you?" whereupon the policeman seized him and a scuffle ensued. In this affray the policeman set his dog upon the prosecutor, whose trousers were torn to rags. At the same time he struck him with his staff upon the head with such force as to stun him and render him completely sick. While he was down, Frazier, the policeman, beat him unmercifully with his staff and a walking-stick, then handcuffed him, and commenced dragging him along the road. Two passers-by who interceded for the prosecutor were threatened to be served in the same way. On their departure the policeman again commenced beating and dragging his prisoner, who cried out, "Oh God! save my life!" "I'll life you," returned the policeman, as he struck him again and again. At last he was rescued by some humane interposition, and was carried off to bed, to which he was confined for eight days, labouring under concussion of the brain, besides severe bodily injuries and bruises from head to heel. The prisoner has been committed for trial.

THE TRIAL OF MR. SMETHURST.

The trial of Mr. Smethurst for the alleged poisoning of Miss Banks, at Richmond, was not concluded at the time of sending this column to press. As it would be manifestly unfair to the prisoner to give a partial report, we reserve the details of the case, both for the prosecution and for the defence, until our next impression.

ASSIZE INTELLIGENCE.

WESTERN CIRCUIT.—BRISTOL.

The jury was about to be sworn in a case of an uninteresting question of account, when one of them held up a small Testament, saying, "I cannot take the oath, my Lord, for this word is so explicit against it."

Mr. Baron Bramwell—That is your notion. Do not say it; say think it is. The great majority of people who have taken the trouble to consider the question are of a different opinion. It is only a few, I must say wrong-headed people, who, of course, are entitled to every respect for their conscientious opinions, who differ from them. Don't say, therefore, it is; but say you think it is. You cannot take the oath, of course, for if a man believes anything to be wrong it would be wrong for him to do it.

Juryman—This word is very explicit.

Mr. Baron Bramwell—As you are in so great a minority you had better take the trouble to reconsider the question. But what is your precise objection to taking this oath? What do you propose to do? Do you wish to affirm anything in any other shape?

Juryman—I could not conscientiously act as a juror.

Mr. Baron Bramwell—Why not? What is your objection?

Juryman—I do not think it is according to the doctrine of grace. (Loud laughter.)

Mr. Baron Bramwell—Grace, indeed! This is intolerable. I thought your objection was to the oath itself, to being sworn.

Juryman—That is my first difficulty.

Mr. Baron Bramwell—What has grace got to do with earthly matters? Do you think it is predestined a man should have a verdict for or against him, and that, therefore, it would be wrong for you to interfere? (Laughter.)

Juryman—We are told in the fourth chapter of Matthew that we should suffer evil, and resist evil.

Mr. Baron Bramwell—Then suffer the evil the law imposes on you, and become a juror. It is downright nonsense, and nothing else. The only common-sense view of the case is, that a man with such ideas in his head is not fit to be a juror.

Mr. Plinn—Counsel on both sides quite agree, my Lord.

Mr. Baron Bramwell—Really, it is childish. You had better leave the box, sir, but you shall not make a holiday of your nonsense. You must not leave the court.

The learned Judge directed the associate to call the jurymen's name every morning.

WELLS.—(Before Mr. Justice Crompton.)

THE CASE OF LIEUT.-COL. FORBES.—Lieut.-Col. John Alexander Forbes was called on to surrender and take his trial on a charge of sending an obscene letter to Miss Lucy Adelaide Fenton, of Bath. The accused did not appear, and his recognisances and those of his surety (Mr. Frederick Morris, of Bath), of £100 each, were ordered to be forfeited.

On the application of Mr. T. W. Saunders, who appeared for the prosecution, a warrant was granted for the apprehension of Lieut.-Col. Forbes, and his Lordship expressed a hope that in cases where persons in a higher station of life were charged with offences and sent for trial the magistrates should take such an amount of bail as would prevent the ends of justice being defeated.

POLICE.

RAPID RECOVERY OF STOLEN PROPERTY.—Richard Tucker was brought up before Alderman Phillips, charged with having unlawfully possession of cutlery goods to the value of £100, stolen from the premises of Mr. Greer, of Newgate-street.

Police-constable, 421 A, said—About half-past ten o'clock on Saturday night last I was on duty in Cowcross-street, when I received information that two men had gone up Peter-and-Key-court with a couple of large canvas bags full of goods. I went up the court, and at the door of No. 7 I saw a man sitting on the steps, and asked him if he had seen two men go in with bags. He said he had not, and that I was on the wrong scent. I, however, went into the house and examined the upper part; but the prisoner, who is the landlord of the house, refused at first to let me see the first floor. I insisted, but found nothing there, and he then refused to let me look into the parlour, making various excuses to prevent me. The door was locked, and he said his daughter had gone out with the key, so I waited about three-quarters of an hour for her; but when she returned she knew nothing about the key, and on my threatening to break open the door, the prisoner forced it open for me. He had previously said there was nothing in the room but a perambulator belonging to a neighbour; but, on searching, I found under the stairs running through the room two large canvas bags containing a quantity of penknives, scissors, and all sorts of cutlery, the gross weight of which was 22 lbs. He said he knew nothing about them, and I thereupon took him to the station. The prisoner occupies the first floor, and the parlour has been empty for a considerable time.

Alderman Phillips—Where did you get that instrument from which you hold in your hand?

Officer (producing a sort of small jenny about eighteen inches long, with one end sharply bent up and pointed like a wedge, manufactured expressly for the use of burglars) said—I found this on the premises of Mr. Greer.

Mr. Greer said—I carry on business as a cutler at No. 70, Newgate-street, and I left those premises secure on Saturday night last, at five minutes past eight o'clock; but at eleven o'clock I was called to return to my shop, and found it had been entered, and cutlery goods to the

value of about £100 taken away. There was also a large quantity of property packed up ready to be removed, but which the thieves in their hurry had left behind. The premises were carefully examined by the police, but there was not the slightest sign of violence anywhere to indicate where the burglars broke in; and I therefore suppose they must have entered by the street door with a false key.

Alderman Phillips—Though you lost your property on Saturday night you have now the satisfaction of knowing where it is, and that it is quite safe; and I have no doubt but that the quantity produced is all that was stolen away. The officer has displayed considerable intelligence and discretion in securing so much property so soon after the robbery. The more I sit here as a magistrate the more I have occasion to observe the wonderful amount of vigilance and ability exercised by the police in all matters of this kind; and I certainly think this officer is entitled to great praise for his conduct in this case. I have no doubt there are other parties wanted by the police in this affair, and I shall therefore remand the prisoner to enable the officer to make further inquiries.

A POOR SOLDIER'S STORY.—HOW THE NATION PAYS ITS SERVANTS.—William Graham, thirty-eight, described as of no occupation, and having no home, attired in very old and ragged soldiers' clothes, was charged before Mr. Tyrwhitt with begging.

One of the Mendicity Society's officers said he saw the defendant stop several persons and ask them for alms.

In defence the defendant said that he had been out in India over fourteen years, and having received an injury he was discharged upon a pension of sixpence a day for two years. That time had now expired, and he had nothing left to support him, and was compelled to beg. His father had been the Sheriff of Cheltenham. He (the defendant) had been in nearly every hospital in London, and still was not cured. What he wanted was to get back to Cheltenham.

Mr. Tyrwhitt, after questioning the defendant, asked him if he would stop in the Mendicity Society's home until the morning, if he paid his railway fare to Cheltenham?

The defendant said that was all he wished for.

Mr. Tyrwhitt discharged him, directing the officer to see him off by the train in the morning, and to give him ten shillings.

MANSLAUGHTER.—Stephen Bamfield Bell, surgeon, has been found guilty at the Bodmin Assizes of the manslaughter of Captain Caddy, and sentenced to penal servitude for life. In this case there was a family quarrel. Captain Caddy, who was seventy-two years of age, was called in to protect the mother and sister of Bell from his violence. Bell slew him with a spear, the first weapon that came to hand.

SHOPLIFTING BY A CHILD.—Eliza Phillips, a girl twelve years of age, who, a few days ago, was charged at this court with several shop robberies, committed by her within the space of about two hours, was brought up for further examination.

The Lord Mayor inquired whether she had yet given a correct address, and whether any discovery had been made as to her connections?

A respectable-looking woman stood forward, and said the prisoner was her daughter, and had for some time past been so perverse and disorderly that she could do nothing with her. On Monday week she sent her to a place which she had obtained for her, but had since discovered that, although the prisoner staid away from home all night, she never went near the place to which she was sent.

The Lord Mayor—I don't like to send such a child to prison, although I understand she has been there before.

Tomkins, police-constable—I had her on a charge on the 25th of October last, when she was sentenced at this court to two months' imprisonment for two different shop robberies which she committed in Aldgate. At that time she gave the name of Anne Thompson, but her proper name is Louisa Hayes.

The Lord Mayor—Well, she must be remanded till Monday, and meanwhile I will consider whether anything can be done to save her from destruction.

FIREBALL-COURT.—Martin Doran, a short and brawny Irish tailor, who had recently been rolled in the mud, and who stood supported by a crutch, was charged with drunkenness and assault.

John Teaney said he lived in Fireball-court with his mother and other relatives. On the previous night, about nine o'clock, he saw the prisoner strike his mother with a crutch, and went up to him for the purpose of taking it from him, when the prisoner bit him on the fleshy part of the arm, and twice on the thigh, bringing away a portion of his (witness's) clothing at each mouthful.

Police-constable 616 said he was in Houndsditch on Sunday night, when he heard a row in Fireball-court, and upon going down, found that the people, according to their usual practice on Sunday evenings, were fighting by dozens, like cats and dogs, and head over heels. Very great complaints had recently been made on the subject, and, as the prisoner was the most violent of the party, and as it was the second time he had been fighting that night, witness took him into custody.

Prisoner—My lord, it's I as ought to be the complainant, for there's such a set of vagabonds lives down that court that I was forced to move away, and I now lives in Cock-and-Hoop-yard. Well, as I was going past there last night them vagabonds all pelted me, and knocked off my hat, and so we got into a scrimmage, but it was his brother's own wife who bit him, for she got hold of his arm, thinking it was mine, and didn't she stick her teeth in! Why, them vagabonds, my lord, is an awful set. They get at it with shovels, and choppers, and pokers, and tongs, and they goes at it in such a style that the police-officers daren't even look up the court.

Lord Mayor—I know the character of Fireball-court too well. People there seem to conduct themselves in those disgraceful rows more like savages than civilised beings.

Mary Teaney, wife of the first witness's brother, positively denied that she had bitten, or offered to bite, any one; and said the prisoner was swinging his crutch round in such an awful way it was a wonder that he didn't kill three parts of the people.

Lord Mayor—it is quite clear, prisoner, that you committed a most unprovoked assault, and that you were drunk.

Prisoner—Yes, I was. I was too stupid drunk to remember about the biting I got.

Lord Mayor—You must pay 10s. for the assault, and 5s. for being drunk, or go to prison for fourteen days.

PERSONATING A POLICEMAN.—John Anderson, a man of middle stature, described as a hawker, was charged with obtaining a sovereign by threats, and falsely representing himself to be a police-constable.

Paul Weston, a cowkeeper, said that on Friday last, between eleven and twelve o'clock, the prisoner came to his house, and wanted to see him particularly, and was shown into the back parlour. On seeing him prisoner said, "You bought two bushels of grains yesterday of Humphreys, and they were stolen." Prosecutor replied that he had given a shilling for the grains, which was fourpence too much. Prisoner then informed him that he was a "detector" from Scotland-yard, and demanded a sovereign, stating that unless he immediately gave it him he should take him to the police-station, and prosecutor then handed him a sovereign, and he went away. Witness did not want to have any bother and to be dragged to a police-station. At about eight o'clock on the same evening he came again, and brought with him a man whom he represented as a brother officer from Scotland-yard, and demanded another sovereign to make up the matter. Prosecutor told him he had not got it, and

inquired his name, when prisoner gave him a card with "A. J. Smith, 47, Belgrave-square," upon it. Prisoner said he would call again on the next morning. In the meantime prosecutor showed the card to a police-constable, and, having been told there was no such man in the police force, determined to give him into custody. Prisoner did not come on the following morning, but in a few hours afterwards called at the house during prosecutor's absence, and a appointment was then made, in order that the prisoner might be taken in charge. He, however, did not keep it, but was met by chance, and captured.

Prosecutor's wife proved that on Saturday afternoon, during her husband's absence, prisoner, accompanied by another man, came to the house, and endeavoured to obtain a sovereign from her, but she refused to give him one.

Police-constable 311 B said that when he was called to take the prisoner into custody the latter bolted at full speed, but, being pursued, was taken.

Prisoner, who has been convicted of felony, was remanded.

The card given by the prisoner to the prosecutor is that of a lady, "Mrs. J. Abel Smith," which appears to have been read "Mr. J. Abel Smith" by mistake.

AN EXTRAORDINARY MATCH AND ITS RESULTS.—A middle-aged and fashionably-dressed lady, in a state of nervous excitement, applied to the Hon. G. C. Norton for his advice respecting her husband, to whom she had not been married quite two months. It appeared that the lady was the daughter of a surgeon, and had been married to a gentleman who died about five years ago, leaving her without a family, but with a well-furnished house and a handsome income. In the month of March last, while attending Barnum's lecture in St. James's Hall, she met a gentleman about her own age, who introduced himself as the son of an earl, made passionate love to her, and vowed he would shoot her unless she married him. On his representations, and promising to present her with a new carriage and £2000 in money, and consenting to have her own jointure settled upon herself, she consented to his wishes, and they were married in June last. Weeks passed over without the presentation of either the £2000, or the carriage, and this induced her (applicant) to suspect her husband, especially as he did not introduce her to a single member of those whom he described as an aristocratic family. All she could learn about him was that he was the friend of a merchant of much respectability, having offices in Threadneedle-street, and residing at the West-end, and in whose service he held some appointment at the time of his marriage. This appointment she had reason to suspect he had since lost, and was at present living upon her. The first question which she had to ask his worship was, whether she was obliged to supply her husband with clothes, particularly as he was in the habit of going out in a very good suit and coming home in a very bad one! "On Saturday last," said the applicant, "he left my house as nicely dressed as any gentleman, and did not return until mid-day on Monday, when he came in a deplorable state."

Mr. Norton—What is the name of your husband, pray?

Applicant—Captain William Denby Sloper Harris, I think it is.

Mr. Norton—It is rather strange that a lady should not know her own name.

Applicant—Well, I must admit it is strange, but I know that it is Harrison; but I shall go and get my marriage certificate.

The applicant left the court, and returned in a short time with the marriage certificate, which she handed to the magistrate.

Mr. Norton—I see by this document that the name of your husband is Harrison. He must therefore have made some misrepresentation, as the name of the nobleman he assumed is not Harrison.

Applicant—Oh yes! he must have deceived me, and yet professing so much love (Renewed laughter). He has treated me cruelly, and yet he tells me my house and all I have got is his—insists on having the whole of my keys, and says I shall be obliged to support him.

Mr. Norton—Well, I am afraid it is so; but I understand from the officer who has been to your house at your request that your husband has not only consented but wishes you to sue for a divorce.

Applicant—Then I'll do so; I only wish I had it now. I had an excellent offer from a barrister, and was fool enough not to accept it. I wish your worship would take the trouble of just reading the letter sent to me by my husband before our marriage, and then the letter of the barrister making me an excellent offer.

Mr. Norton—I have no great curiosity in such matters; but now, Mrs. Harrison—as that appears to be your name—if you can say you go in fear of your husband, I shall grant you a summons.

Mrs. Harrison (after some hesitation)—No, I can't say I do; I think he loves me too well to injure me, though I don't love him a bit.

Mr. Norton—Then I should recommend you to go home and to come to some arrangement for a speedy divorce or separation.

Mrs. Harrison—No, I'll not go home; I am afraid to do so. I shall go to Brighton, and he may sell or do what he likes with the goods in the house.

Mr. Norton—Well, my advice to you is to go home.

Mrs. Harrison—I feel very much obliged to you, sir; but I shall go to Brighton.

Mrs. Harrison then withdrew.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

The prospectuses of the new Russian and Indian loans have been issued. The amount of the former is £12,000,000 in a 3 per cent stock at 68 per cent. As a full half-yearly dividend will be paid on the 1st November next, and as the final instalment of 13 per cent will not be until the 23rd of January, the price in reality is about 69. The subscription list will be closed on the 20th inst. A large portion of the loan has been subscribed for, and the scrip has been quoted at 4 to 1 prem. The Indian loan is for £5,000,000 in a 5 per cent stock. The dividends will be paid, and transfers made, free of all stamp duties, at the Bank of England, and the stock will be redeemable at par from the 5th of July, 1870, upon one year's previous notice being given by the Government. The whole amount will be required by the 22nd November, and tenders for not less than £500 will be received on the 23rd inst.

The announcement of these loans has produced some inactivity in the market for Home Stocks, and prices have, in some instances, ruled a shade lower. However, the depression has been fully recovered owing to the Government broker having made his appearance as a purchaser of stock. Consols have made 95½; 3½s, the Reduced and the New 3 per cents, 95½ to 96; Exchequer Bills, 23s. to 26s. prem. Bank's stock has sold at 22½ to 22¾; and India Stock, 218 to 221. Indian Debentures, 1855, have realised 94½ to 95; ditto, 1859, 94½; and the Bonds, 12s. discount.

The total imports of bullion have amounted to about £500,000; but nearly the whole of them have been taken for export to the Continent.

There has been a steady, though not so active, demand for money; and the rates of discount have continued firm. In Lombard street the lowest quotation for the best short paper is 2½ per cent.

The dealings in the Foreign House have been tolerably numerous, and prices generally have ruled steady. Turkish 6 per cents have marked 81; ditto, New, 73½; Brazilian 5 per cents, 104½; ditto, 4½ per cents, 95; Buenos Ayres 6 per cents, 71½; Mexican 3 per cents, 208; Peruvian 4½ per cents, 95½; Russian 4½ per cents, 99½; Sardinian 5 per cents, 85½.

There has been a steady market for Railway Shares; and, in most instances, extreme rates to a steady advance have been realised.

Banking Shares have continued very quiet. Bank of Egypt have sold at 2½; Ottoman, 18½; London and Westminster, 49½; London Discount, 18, dis. ex div.; National Discount, 14½ dis.

Miscellaneous Securities have ruled tolerably firm in price. Canada Government 6 per cents have realised 112½; and Victoria Railway Debentures, 110½.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Only moderate supplies of English wheat have been on offer this week. For most kinds, however, the demand has ruled somewhat inactive, at previous quotations. In foreign wheat—the show of which has been extensive—the transactions have continued limited, on former terms. The barley trade has ruled heavy, but we have no change to notice in prices. Malt has moved off slowly, at the late decline. On the whole, a good business has been passing in oats, at about late quotations. Beans, peas, and flour have ruled about stationary; but the transactions in them have been much restricted.

ENGLISH CURRENCY. Wheat, Essex and Kent, Red, 37s. to 45s. ditto, White, 40s. to 45s. Norfolk and Lincoln, Red, 37s. to 45s. Rye, 32s. to 34s.; Grinding Barley, 25s. to 29s.; Distilling, 27s. to 32s.; Malt, 30s. to 34s.; Malt, 30s. to 34s.; Feed Oats, 24s. to 30s.; Potatoes, 20s. to 24s.; Turnips, 10s. to 14s.; Hay, 10s. to 14s.; Peas, 10s. to 14s.; Beans, 10s. to 14s.; Clover, 10s. to 14s.; Country Marks, 20s. to 24s. per 200 lbs.

CATTLE.—Full average supplies of each kind of fat stock have been on offer this week. Heats, sheep, and pigs have ruled about stationary; but the value of lambs and calves has given way 3d. to 4d. per lb. Beef, from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; mutton, 2s. 2d. to 4s. 6d.; lamb, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.; veal, 3s. 10d. to 4s. 10d.; pork, 3s. to 4s. 6d. per 8 lb. to sink the offal.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL.—The supplies of meat have increased, and the trade has become more active, as follows:—Beef, from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; mutton, 2s. 2d. to 4s. 6d.; lamb, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.; veal, 3s. 10d. to 4s. 10d.; pork, 3s. to 4s. 6d. per 8 lb. to sink the offal.

THE MARKET.—Our market is in a healthy state, but the business doing in it is very moderate. Common sound com is selling at 1s. 3d. per lb. The stock of flour in the United Kingdom 66,000,000 lb., against 75,000,000 lb. at the corresponding period in 1858.

SUGAR.—The supplies of raw sugar brought forward this week have been only moderate. However, the demand for most kinds has ruled inactive, at barely the late quotations in the quotations. Refined goods move off slowly, at 50s. 6d. to 51s. per cwt. for common brown lumps. Crushed sugars rule about stationary.

COFFEES.—Our market, generally, is firm, at very full prices. The show of samples is good.

COCA.—The trade is very firm, and prices have further advanced 2s. per cwt.

RICE.—Most descriptions support previous rates, with a good consumptive demand. Low to fine white Bengal has changed hands at 10s. to 11s. 3d.; low and common Rangoon, 6s. 10d. to 7s. 1d.; and good Madras, 9s. 6d. per cwt.

SALEABLES.—The market for saleables has somewhat increased, and the market is healthy. A few parcels of Bengal, 24 per cent, have changed hands at 38s. 6d. per cwt.

PROVISIONS.—Fine parcels of most descriptions of butter have sold steadily, at full prices, but late quotations have met a slow inquiry, and hams are quite as dear as last week, but other provisions are all.

METALS.—Scotch pig iron has realised 35s. 3d. cash, mixed numbers. In the value of manufactured parcels we have very little change to notice. In the value of raw materials, the market is moderate request, at 140s. to 141s. for Straths, and 140s. to 141s. for Banca. Other metals rule about stationary.

COTTON.—The transactions continue on a limited scale, at previous quotations.

HEMP AND FLAX.—Baltic hemp is dull, at £29 per ton on the spot. Manila parcella well heavy. Flax moves off slowly, at late rates.

WOOL.—The public sales of Colonial wool continue to be well attended both by home and foreign buyers, and most qualities have sold briskly, at full prices, but late quotations have met a slow inquiry, and hams are quite as dear as last week, but other provisions are all.

LEWIS.—The market for Lewis is moderate request, at full quotations. Proof Lewis, 11d.; Demerara, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 3d. per gallon. Brandy sells steadily, on rather higher terms. Fine parcels, 1857, are worth 9s. 2d.; and 1858, 7s. 4d. to 7s. 6d. per gallon. English gin, for export, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 5d.; 1858, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 5d. per gallon.

OLIVE.—Lined oil is in moderate request, at 28s. 9d. per cwt. on the spot. Cocunut oil is firm, at 41s. to 42s. 6d.; fine palm, 45s. 6d. to 46s.; and rape, at 36s. to 40s. Olive is steady, at £50 for Gallipoli, and £44 to £49 for other kinds. Spum is held at £91 to £92 per ton. Spirits of turpentine, 45s. to 55s. 6d.; rough do., 3s. 3d. per cwt.

TALLOW.—The business doing is only moderate, at 55s. per cwt. for P.Y.C., on the spot, and 55s. 9d. for the last three months. The stock is 21,525 casks, against 11,716 ditto in 1858, and 12,577 in 1857. Rough fat, 2s. 11d. to 2s. 12d.; best, 16s. to 17s.; best second, 15s. to 16s. 6d.; Hartley's, 13s. 6d. to 14s.; manufacturers', 12s. 3d. to 13s. 3d. per ton.

LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, August 12.
BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—J. PENNEY, Lincoln, merchant.

BANKRUPTCY.—V. ARACCHINO, Austrians, City, merchant—H. WINDROP, Nettleham, Lincolnshire, tailor—J. HOLDEN, Bolton, Lancashire, painter—W. MAYES, Birmingham, grocer—J. FREEMAN, Blackfriars, road, chemist and druggist—H. BATCHELOR, Mark Lane, chemical manure manufacturer.

SCOTCH SKEWERS.—J. STARK, Perth, draper—W. STRATTON, Glasgow, City, Pittenwey, fishcurer—W. AUSTIN, jun., Edinburgh—J. SIMPSON, Glasgow, tailor and clothier.

TUESDAY, August 16.
BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—S. FARMAN, Mincing-lane, City, indigo broker—S. LONDON, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, grocer.

BANKRUPTCY.—T. PERREA, Cambridge, tailor—B.A. MANHEIM, Finsbury, Crutcher, bootmaker—J. CROCKFORD, St. James's-street, commission agent—J. CROCKFORD, Ware, Hertfordshire, broker—J. W. PERREA, Luton, Bedfordshire, printer—E. FRANCE and H. FRANCE, Linthwaite, Yorkshire, woollen manufacturers—J. CLAYTON and B. LOCKWOOD, Ratcliff, Yorkshire, silk weavers—H. HENRIET, Sheffield, printer—W. HYDE, Liverpool, ship broker.

SCOTCH SKEWERS.—W. RITCHIE, Glasgow, wine merchant—T. QUEENAN, Perth, grocer—G. MACKAY, Keith, Banffshire, ironmonger.

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